

volume 48 number 6 • thursday 25 july, 1996



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A liberal education?

Finally, the battle zones have been drawn. With the 1996 Budget approaching, students count their pennies and wonder if they will be the biggest losers this year. Tom McCawley and John Asker give you the hard facts and ask if you'll be voting Liberal again. Also, hear what Resistance has to say.

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Love Hemp

Hemp - you gotta love it. The new wonder fabric can also be used in vegeburgers. Great for that big night out; if you get the munchies, just eat your shorts

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Death to Blank Walls

Having long been scorned as crappy underground art, graffiti is now the coolest alternative artform, and is beginning to make a welcome appearance on the otherwise drab concrete of the Capital. And in the secretive corners of campus libraries and toilets, the ANU's own artistes express themselves in their own unique way

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the ferret squeaks

the ferret journeys down the information
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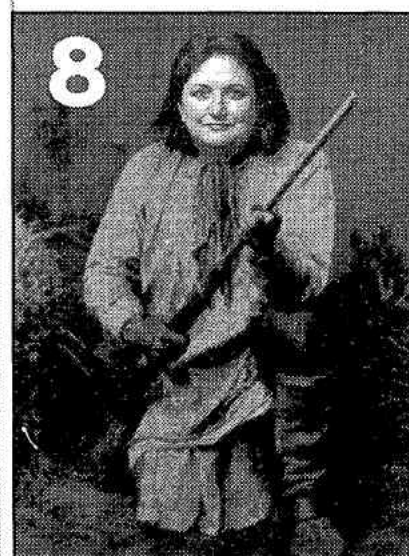
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WIN! Mega give-aways of 100s of CDs to the least apathetic student!
 Reviews of the latest movies, books and CDs, as well as free double passes
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what's the difference between Amanda Vanstone and Kurt Cobain?



insanity is so close to me

Smurf = GOD

letters

uvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

National farce or national tragedy?

Dear *Woroni*,
I must compliment you on your last edition of *Woroni*. Reading the letters pages of previous editions, I noticed two common threads of your correspondents. Firstly was the cry "Stop making *Woroni* so political", secondly came "Make *Woroni* more funny". Thus I was very impressed with your mock National Party Club in the "Soap-Box". It was bloody inspired. I guess it probably went a bit too far in places, such as the mindless assertion of the monarchy's greatness, or the connection of left politics with atheism and Stalinism, but to an acknowledged (although unaffiliated) "lefty" such as myself, it was very funny. I guess most actual National Party supporters won't appreciate your blunt satire in the last *Woroni*, but I personally hope you keep it up. It was one of the most humorous parts of the last edition.

Yours,
Jason Ives.

To the Lefties at *Woroni*,
It doesn't really need stating that of all political denominations present on the ANU Campus, National Party supporters such as myself are in a minority. Thus it should have come as no surprise to me that eventually you guys would take easy pot-shots at us in your publication. Your so-called National Party Student's Club column in *Woroni* was lame and offensive. You just took mindless public perceptions of rural dwellers as being parochial and uninformed and stretched them to extremes. Additionally you didn't even have the guts to use the actual insignia of the National Party, or even to "credit" the article to an author, let alone to include his or her photo. Of course in a city such as Canberra

it is not to be expected that there is much interest in the welfare of the agricultural sector, but to farmers the National Party

"Rural Australia is not just made up of all the inbred hicks"

represents a badly needed parliamentary voice. It was the National Party who in the last election tried to have the assets test for Austudy relaxed so that more rural students could afford to attend Universities such as this one, and again the National Party who always fights for the fair treatment of farmers by the banks and so forth. You may also care to be informed that Tim Fisher is standing with firm resolve on the anti-gun platform. Unlike the mis-representation in your failed attempt at satire would suggest, Rural Australia is not just made up of all the inbred hicks; it appears at least some of those made their way to ranks of the "journalists". I guess as a National Party supporter, I am partly to blame as I should have started such a club long ago, to prevent your puerile attempts at humour. Yours sincerely,
Stephen Parkes

Dear Editor,
It was with deep regret and shock that I saw there were young Nationals on campus. The fact that such an inherently prejudiced and bigoted regime was still clinging to the allegedly glorious days of the British Empire was disturbing enough, especially so going to university. Even though the writer tried his or her best to sound respectable, little elements could not help but creep into the column. Husbands, wives and children were supported.

Of course single mothers, and gays and lesbians or any other couples outside marriage were forgotten. Then there was praise for the British who ravaged this continent and its inhabitants 208 years ago. Kooris and immigrants also missed a mention.

We only have to look at the federal National party to see what sort of people we are dealing with. The National party has only the one 'token woman' in all its seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Their comments about gun laws were unhelpful to say the least.

"Racist, homophobic and sexist men should not be in charge of this multicultural society of ours"

Although I am not really involved in politics I do believe the National Party Club and the federal National Party are an anachronism past their use-by date. Racist, homophobic and sexist men should not be in charge of this multicultural society of ours,

Yours Sincerely
Anthea Stannard

Dear *Woroni*,
We refer readers to the strikingly underwhelming letter by a self-proclaimed member of the Justice [sic.] League of ANU [30 May 1996], which expressed "deepest concern" at the ANU Sexuality Departments adoption of the Superman logo in its regular column in *Woroni*: "and a handful of Crisco." We immediately identified this Justice [sic.] League member as hailing from the planet Moron, sister planet of Krypton. Light from the sun gracing our solar system does not endow them with special powers as it does the inhabitants of Krypton, but instead

induces a characteristic mental regression to age five. Moronians can most easily be recognised by their petulant use of the word "shenanigans." As this is only four syllable word they seem to know, we must forgive them. Firstly, as homosexuals we feel validated by and would like to applaud the (presumably male) writers support for our "struggle for social acceptance." We too try to lend a sympathetic ear to troubled straight people seeking to win acceptance in society. Disturbingly, the Moronian expressed certain sentiments which indicate he is upset that homosexuals have adopted what he considers to be a distinctly straight symbol. We would like to remind him that heterosexual people consistently appropriate gay, lesbian and bisexual symbols, personalities and philosophies. Individuals such as Michel Foucault, Jean Genet, E.M. Forster, Gertrude Stein, Gore Vidal, k d lang, Madonna, Greg Louganis, David Geffen, Martina Navratilova and even the apostle Paul (and you thought Titus was just a travelling companion!) are a few of the many non-heterosexual thinkers, writers and performers who have been embraced by straight society, and whose statements have thus been rendered richer and more universal. Throughout history, societies and culture have exchanged symbols and thoughts. For instance, Christianity and mathematics came from the Middle East and not from Europe. Meaning is negotiated and not owned.

To return to Superman, the Moronian aptly noted the superhero to stand for "Truth, Justice and the American way." Obviously, no one told him that he is living in Australia (the kangaroos really should be a hint but some people are sooo slow!). Superman is a symbol for distinctly American values, yet other societies and cultures appropriate him, quite validly. Therefore, while Superman may not overtly stand for homosexuality, neither does he overtly stand for Australia. It is quite obvious the Moronian wishes to have his dick and eat it too, without possessing the requisite (intellectual) dexterity.

We were dazzled by the Moronian's attempted use of gay slang. The terms "poof" and "lezzo" were employed quite artfully. Obviously, a dictionary was utilised. Yet we were surprised the Moronian did not, in the course of his research, come across the phrase "friend of Dorothy." Perhaps if he had, he would be even more concerned at the greedy appropriation of "childhood heroes" by we oh-so-subversive homosexuals. The shock upon discovering the extent to which a gay sensibility pervades "The Wizard of Oz" would be too great for his heart to bear, we fear (is it our fault the

only people who befriended Judy Garland on the set were gay?). In the future we would like to advise Moronians that use of this language is quite inappropriate in mixed company (alas, the species has very poor social skills and often needs instruction in this regard). We would also like to strongly discourage use of the phrase "backdoor shenanigans" in any context. Unless of course you like it that way. The correct words are gay and lesbian. Note how polite we have been by making sure to use the politically correct "Moronian" instead of patently offensive terminology such as "shit head" or "piss brains." Protocol should never be neglected (even when dealing with Moronians).

"Honey, studly men running around in bum-hugging tights are simply THE most camp thing in pop culture!"

We would now like to address the perceived "struggle" for legitimacy undertaken by gays and lesbians. We already are legitimate. Homosexuals have existed in all societies across all time frames, and have contributed to all facets of those societies. If Moronians choose to believe that we are in some way on a different, inferior level, this merely points to another species-specific flaw to be worked through and resolved so many neuroses, so little time). Frankly, we've got better things to do.

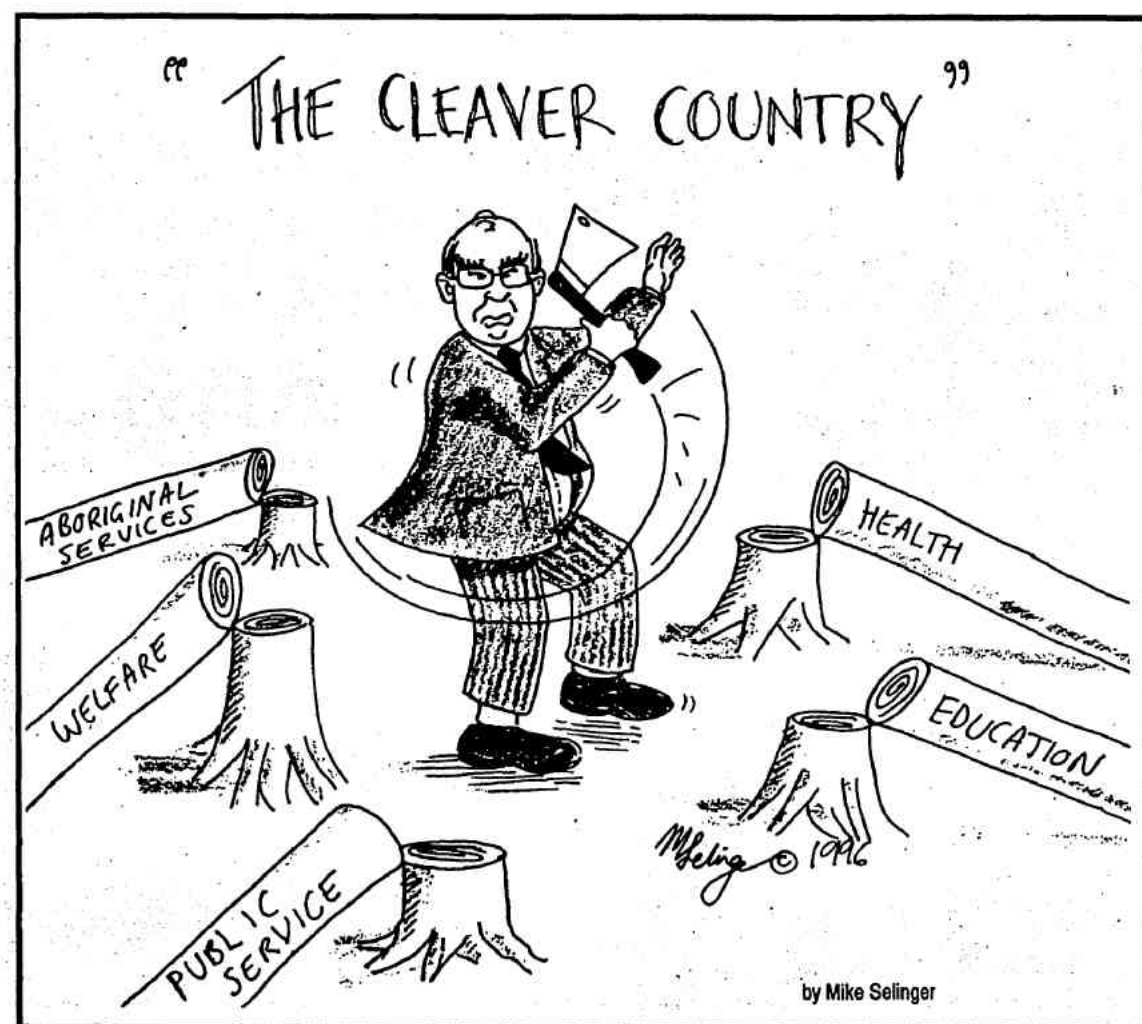
So what possible connection is there between Superman and a gay aesthetic? Honey, studly men running around in bum-hugging tights are simply THE most camp thing in pop culture! Oooooooo! Rescue me, baby doll! Our guess is that Superman is waiting for a few more Moronians to die of HRS (Heterosexual Redundancy Syndrome) before he can "come out of the closet."
Eric Sathre, J

The Mackerras files

#1: Labor condemns Mackerras
Dear *Woroni*

As a member of the Labor Party I have watched with much interest the ANU Students Association President William Mackerras, a fellow member of the ALP, and his Labor Students colleges at the ANU. Student politics is an area, especially under a Liberal government, where the work of ALP members can significantly contribute to bringing about a fairer and more equitable educational system, such as the work being done by Lorrie Ferroni the President of the National Union of Students.

However I was disgusted to learn that William Mackerras as President of the ANUSA Has proposed that ANU allow graduate tuition fees for postgraduate courses in 1997, at the last meeting of the ANU Council on July 12th (see attached Council Agenda Item 30). William Mackerras acts are not endorsed by the ALP, in fact a



recent meeting of Young Labor,

"Mackerras was condemned overwhelmingly for his actions"

William Mackerras was condemned overwhelmingly for his actions. In addition William Mackerras and his colleges represent a fringe element in the ACT ALP, whose actions in a number of areas have been questioned by the wider ALP.

I urge all students at ANU to oppose the proposed Up-Front Fees, however I also urge you not to blame the Labor Party for these actions by William Mackerras are not endorsed and will not be tolerated by a Party whose commitment to equitable Higher Education is long standing and increasing. ANU will be the crucible for the regressive moves by the Liberal government, so it is necessary for all students to show solidarity and oppose moves such as this one, for they are all focused to bringing about an educational system where only the rich can afford a degree.

Abraham Gubler
2: 357 - 362 GRADUATE TUITION FEES - OPTIONS PAPER The President of the Australian National University Students' Association, Mr W Mackerras, has prepared the attached paper (1750/1996) on options for the University in expanding its range of fee paying courses, in order to maximise financial autonomy and at the same time ensure equity of access

such that all people are best able to participate in graduate education. Mr Mackerras proposes, in

summary,

- that Council allow graduate tuition fees to be charged for students enrolling in new post-graduate courses offered in 1997, but including courses offered in the Graduate Program in Law, the Graduate Diploma in Legal practice,

- that Master of Applied Epidemiology, and the Master of Business Administration Program;

- that Council continue to allow new students studying full time in courses other than those mentioned in 1 to enrol on a HECS liable basis;

- that the Disability Support Pension and the Additional Family Payment be included in the list of Department of Social Security Benefits for which HECS liable places will be granted; and

- that the University take steps to ensure the availability of exemptions is widely advertised.

#2: Education Action Group condemn Mackerras

A second open letter to William Mackerras, President of the ANUSA,

Since the last open letter to Mr Mackerras was endorsed by the EAG, the President has continued to play a destructive role in the campaign. He has attempted to pass a motion through an SRC meeting to stop the ANUSA from funding the Education Action group, a democratic cross campus group which is organising the fight back against education cuts on ANU and UCAN. The EAG is also supported by the UCANSA. When this SRC meeting did not get a quorum, the president suggested that six members of the SRC be

sacked in order to get a quorum and pass the motion. The options were explored until it was discovered that the criteria to be applied in order to sack members not present also applied to most SRC members that were present. The SRC then got cold feet, and without a quorum, the motion lost.

The president also tried to discredit another action against the education cuts, a picket organised by the NTEU and students of a public speech by Howard at ANU on the 27th of June. From the 150 strong picket, about 100 staff and students sat in on the speech to show their anger. The president was on the radio next day, protesting that 10 of the "rabble" had disrupted the speech. He essentially

apologised to Howard for the fact that staff and students were protesting the proposed cuts by his government and he said that he might send a letter to Howard to this effect. The President is attempting to discredit and demobilise the campaign against education cuts so that an association with it will not damage his future career in the Labor Party. This was the party that began to implement the cuts to education funding, introduce fees and destroy the quality of education and access to it for disadvantaged students, which the Howard Liberal government is now continuing with. It seems that the president is not concerned with representing the interests of students through his SA position, only with how it

will look on his resume. We call on the president to:

- publicly apologise to the EAG for attempting to discredit its actions against the education cuts

- endorse future actions of the EAG against the education cuts

- support a motion at an upcoming student general meeting to give funds to the EAG in order to run future campaigns against education cuts.

Sincerely,

Natalie Zirngast, Member of the EAG and Resistance, Nick Soudakoff, Member of the EAG and Resistance, Kamini Junankar, Member of the EAG and Resistance, Martin Iltis, Member of the EAG and the Democratic Socialist Party.



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- **Friday** 11am-12:30am
- **Saturday** 11am-2am
- Closed on Sunday

NEWS

Supplementary Exams: We Have 'Em

by Michael Cook

Call For New Gen Sec

Following the resignation of Douglas Guilfoyle, nominations are being called for the position of Students' Association General Secretary.

An election will take place at the first SRC meeting of second semester, after which the successful candidate will be ratified by a General Meeting.

Nominations should be forwarded to Karen Hagan at the Students' Association.

Internship Cancelled

There will be no opportunities available for students to partake in the law internship program this semester. This is because there is no member of staff in the Law Faculty who is in the position to take responsibility for coordinating the program.

The Faculty has been unsuccessful in its attempt to recruit a new member of staff interested in running the program this semester. Having failed to find someone from outside the Faculty, it was then too late to rearrange the teaching loads for the full-time staff.

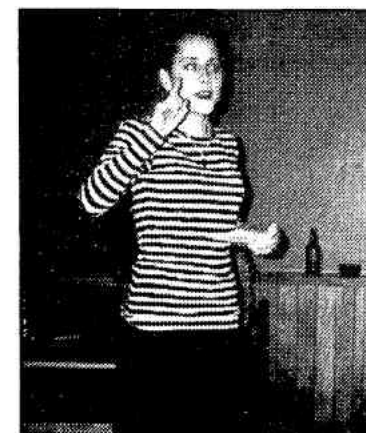
The Faculty remains committed to the internship program which will be run by Hugh Selby over the summer and hopefully in first semester next year.

Mass Debate

The Australasian Intersvarsity Debating Championships were held at ANU from 7 July to 14 July. Over 250 people came from as far as South Africa to participate.

ANU had six teams entered in the competition but first place went to the first team from Monash University.

A variety of events were held during the week to supplement the excitement of debating. One of the best attended events was an speech by Democrat Senator Stott Despoja, who spoke about the place of youth in the political structure.



Rebecca Starr, ANU 1, lets fly with a virulent verbal attack

After six years of concerted student effort, supplementary exams have been accepted by the ANU Board of the Faculties. This major shift in ANU examination policy will allow students who narrowly failed their course, due to a bad exam result, to re-sit the exam and achieve a course pass mark.

Matt Tinning, law student representative on the Board, believes the introduction of supplementary exams will be of great benefit to students. He is confident that the automatic re-examination system will remove some of the unfairness and inconsistency which students experience at exam time. "You still have to reach the same standard of academic achievement, but if you've got the ability to do it and you just have a bad exam day - you get a second shot at it." Mr Tinning asserts that under the old system some students failed who deserved to pass. This unnecessarily added a year to their degree, 'messed-up' prerequisites for courses and scholarships, and took up scarce University resources.

The supplementary exam system, designed and proposed to the Board of the Faculties (BOTFAC) by the Student Association, was created to minimise unjust course results. The proposal states that if you fail a course by five or less marks, after being on a pass average before attempting the exam, you will be en-

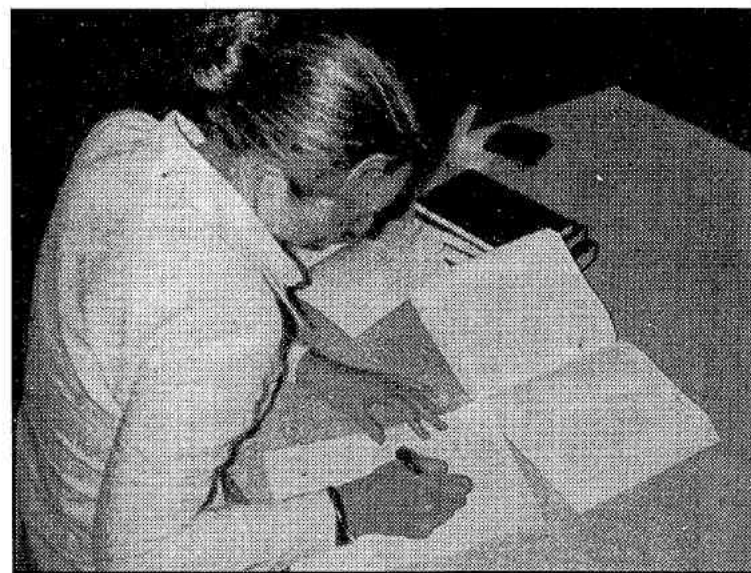
titled to sit a supplementary exam. If you then receive an exam mark that gives you a pass for the course, you will be awarded a pass grade.

The Student Association denies that supplementary exams will be over-lenient to students. Each Faculty still has the right to record the resulting grade on the formal academic transcript as P(s), meaning 'needed supplementary exam to pass'.

After similar supplementary exam proposals were narrowly defeated in past years, this year's vote in favour of the plan was overwhelming. Conducted using the 'voice vote' method, only about three of the 74 members of BOTFAC voted against the proposal.

Mr Tinning attributes this decisive margin to a number of factors. He believes the increasing competition between Australian Universities to attract international students, the Federal Government's eagerness to slash Higher Education funding, and the ANU Administration's attempts to cut costs in light of the government's intentions, all played a part in the Board's decision. He notes that probably "the Board's decision wasn't exactly inspired by benevolence towards students."

However, another factor played a major role in influencing the board to implement the Student Association proposal. Every member of the Board was intensively lobbied by the Student Association and student members of BOTFAC, led by SA President



Supplementary exams present an opportunity to do even more study, many students are excited at the prospect of this riveting new way to spend the holidays.

William Mackerras and his 'enthusiastic, persuasive lobbying technique'. After such an onslaught, there were 'only a couple of diehards left - mainly from Economics' who voted against the plan.

Even the most enthusiastic backers of the system admit, however, that it might create difficulties. Mr Mackerras concedes "it takes time and money to implement a whole second round of exams in July and February"; he plans to solve this by introducing a small levy for all students taking supplementary exams.

The only possible problem Mr Tinning sees is the recalcitrant attitude of certain faculties. "I can see the potential for faculties not to play ball, and to intentionally fail students by more than 5 marks - but it would really be pretty nasty for faculties to go so blatantly against the decision. I'm sure they won't employ such low tactics."

The supplementary exam system will probably be in place by this November's examination period...but, as students know only too well, the wheels of ANU Administration move slowly.

Bush Week Issues Challenge

by Benjamin Green

The 1996 ANU Bush Week agenda has now been set in stone by convenor, Geraldine Chin.

"I am very pleased with the way in which everything has come together. This year's theme is, "Are you prepared to meet the challenge," Ms Chin said.

In particular, Ms Chin stressed a return to the Bush Week of old, with many of the traditional features making a significant comeback.

"I am happy to report that the Century Challenge, the Scavenger Hunt, and Market Day are all making a triumphant return to Bush Week," Ms Chin said.

In addition, the programme includes Sumo Wrestling, Bouncy Boxing, the Campus Trivia Challenge, and the Bush Week Dinner.

Ms Chin was also delighted with the generous sponsorship of this year's Bush Week, which includes an STA Travel Holiday, a TV, \$1000 worth of Union vouchers, Tooheys' leather jackets, kegs of beer and more. Ms Chin stated that only those present at The Bush Week

Dinner would be eligible for the prize draw.

"Most importantly, I want people to know that there will be a keg of beer given to the most active Club or Society, and to the most active College."

Ms Chin's parting words were, "Are you prepared to meet the challenge?"



Is this the challenge you're looking for?

Whinge Week

by Deborah Snow

The inaugural Students' Association Whinge Week will take place in the second week of this semester. It is designed to give students an opportunity to bag out their courses, lecturers and the university generally - so that Student Representatives can hear their criticisms.

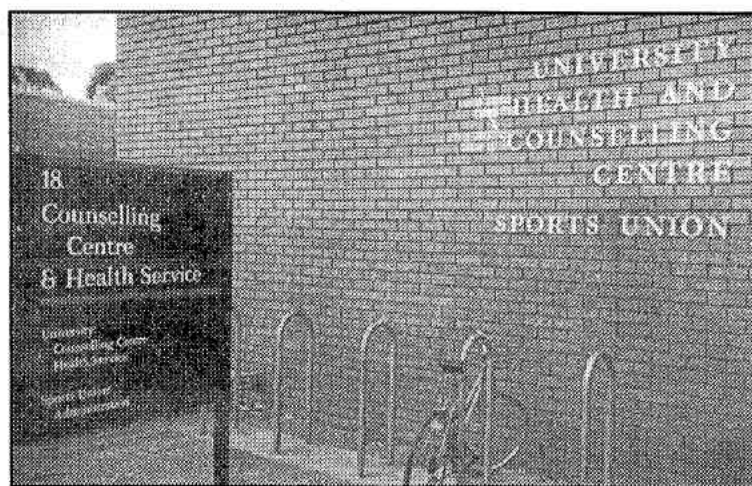
The event is being organised by the SA Education Committee. Committee chair Patrick Mackerras commented last week that "At the moment there are very few channels of communication between students and their elected representatives. We hope to fix that. Furthermore, Whinge Week will put pressure on the university publicly. Currently, it is all too easy for academics and administrators to ignore complaints raised in the privacy of a course feedback questionnaire."

All day every day during the week, student representatives will be stationed in Union court to hear students' complaints. Surveys will also be available for completion.

Gorilla Breakfast



The Mountain Gorilla Survival Appeal is dedicated to the well-being of the gorillas in Rwanda, especially by helping to finance anti-poaching patrols. A Gorillas in the Mist hot breakfast and piano recital will take place on Friday September 6th, from 7 to 8:30am, in the Great Hall, University House, Balmain Crescent. Tickets are \$20, and all monies raised will go directly towards food and wages of those guarding the gorillas. Tickets are available at the Drill Hall Gallery; or by phoning Michele on 247 3093.



The Health Centre may be funded through the General Services Fee next year.

Possible Rise In General Services Fee

by Geoff Labonzski

Persuasive rumours abound that the ANU Administration intends to increase the student General Services Fee. This rise, to be introduced next year, will fund the ANU Counselling Centre and Health Service Centre. ANU Administration plans to decrease funding to the two centres over the next few years, and believes students should pay to keep services up to standard.

In order to maintain present funding levels to the Counselling and Health Services, the GSF may rise by as much as 50%. This will cost students an extra \$90 each.

The compulsory re-direction of GSF money into funding the centres

will also result in decreased student control, through the Student Association, over how money will be spent. This places at risk SA President William Mackerras' proposal for the construction of a Students' Services Building. Mr Mackerras believes that if student money ends up paying for the centres, "it will be much harder to argue" for extra space and funds for general student services.

However unpalatable a General Services Fee increase may be, ANU Administration is determined to eventually cease funding the centres. A GSF rise may be the only alternative to downgraded - or non-existent - counselling and health services on campus.

NTEU Ban Blocks Results

'We're Not Callous Bastards' Argues NTEU Officer

by Michael Cook

ANU students will not be formally notified of Semester One exam and course results, due to National Tertiary Education Union industrial bans. Result Advice Notices, normally posted to students, appear to have been cancelled, and *The Canberra Times* will not publish ANU grades because 'they are not being supplied' by the University.

Peter Davidson, ACT Division Industrial Officer of the NTEU, is confident there will be no formal communication with students. "At this stage it would look that way, because both forms [of notification] are put out by Administration, and we have a ban on passing on results to Administration." Mr Davidson believes the ban will only have a minimal impact on the vast majority of undergraduate students.

The only way students can determine their grade is to approach their lecturers. Mr Davidson asserts that the NTEU does not stop, and in fact encourages, union members to 'informally notify' students what mark they have received. This will allow

students to make second semester course choices knowing whether they have passed, failed, or achieved a grade necessary to continue their course.

These bans are part of a campaign by the NTEU to place pressure on the Federal government, which has threatened to slash Tertiary Education sector funds. According to the NTEU, bans such as this will force the government to recognise the worth of the Tertiary Education sector, minimising the long-term impact of budgetary cuts. Mr Davidson believes the media generally portrays unions as a 'callous, uncaring bunch of bastards', but insists this is not the case, and that any industrial action is undertaken reluctantly. "Each ban is very thoroughly debated. The impact on students [from the ban] is taken into account...[but so is] the impact on students from a ten percent budget cut." The best way for the students to get these bans removed, argues Mr Davidson, is "to voice their concern and disgust to the Min-

ister for Education, Amanda Vanstone...her fax number is 06 273 4116".

The NTEU ban against formal notification of results is not universally supported by Tertiary institutions. Whilst the Universities of Wollongong, Sydney, Macquarie, and Western Sydney support the ban, the University of Canberra published exam results in *The Canberra Times* on 16 July. Within the ANU itself there is discontent over the structure of the industrial action; one source from deep within the Commerce Department believes many of the staff are 'very unhappy' with the decision to implement the ban.

Whilst conceding that there will be 'a minority, dissenting view' in every decision-making process, Mr Davidson stresses that the ban is not simply "the academics at the ANU picking on ANU students; it's part of a national campaign" to reverse the government's 'arrogant and ignorant stance towards Australia's Universities.

SPORT

ANU impresses at ECGs

by Dean Christie

The Eastern Conference Games were held last holidays in the week beginning 8 May. ANU sent 182 representatives to the tournament which was held in Armidale.

The Eastern Conference comprises 25 universities from New South Wales reaching as far up as the University of New England in Armidale and as far south as Charles Sturt University in Wagga. The Eastern Conference Games is the qualifying tournament for teams for the Australian University Games which will be held in Canberra in late September - early October. At the Eastern Conference Games teams compete to win one of the limited number of starting slots at the Australian Games.

ANU contested the men's Squash, Tennis, Basketball, Rugby Union, Soccer, Touch and Hockey, and women's Basketball, Soccer, Rugby Union, Touch, Hockey, Netball and Softball in Armidale.

A mixed touch team was also fielded.

Concurrent with the Eastern Conference Games a golf team of four men contested the Australian Universities title.

ANU had some impressive results. The women's basketball team won for the third year straight.

The men's hockey team were also victorious. Their win was especially impressive as they only let in one goal during the entire tournament.

In other results ANU came third in men's squash and men's rugby union. The netball team came fifth and the women's hockey team came fourth.

At the end of the games Eastern Conference All-Star teams were announced. While some teams have yet to be finalised, Merren Armour, Ana Talko and Vanessa Johnson made the women's basketball All-Stars and Jamie Davis-Goff made the men's basketball All-Stars.

Orienteers in Romanian Run

Two ANU orienteers went to Valcea, Romania to contest the Junior World Orienteering Championships over the holidays.

Robert Walter and Jo Allison both performed well in the event which comprised a short course race, long race and relay.

Walter stood out in the Classic (long) race coming a strong 22nd out of 165 starters. In the women's classic Allison finished a similarly impressive 15th out of about 130 starters. Both athletes were the best placed Australians in the event.

Allison showed her consistency in the short course event by coming 15th, once again establishing herself as the strongest Australian.

In the relay, Australia came 9th in the men's race and 11th in the women's race.

Before the event there was much speculation about what the competitors would face in the largely unknown Romanian terrain and organisation. The consistently strong results of the Australian team display their ability to face and overcome considerable uncertainty.

Computer Nerd Lockout



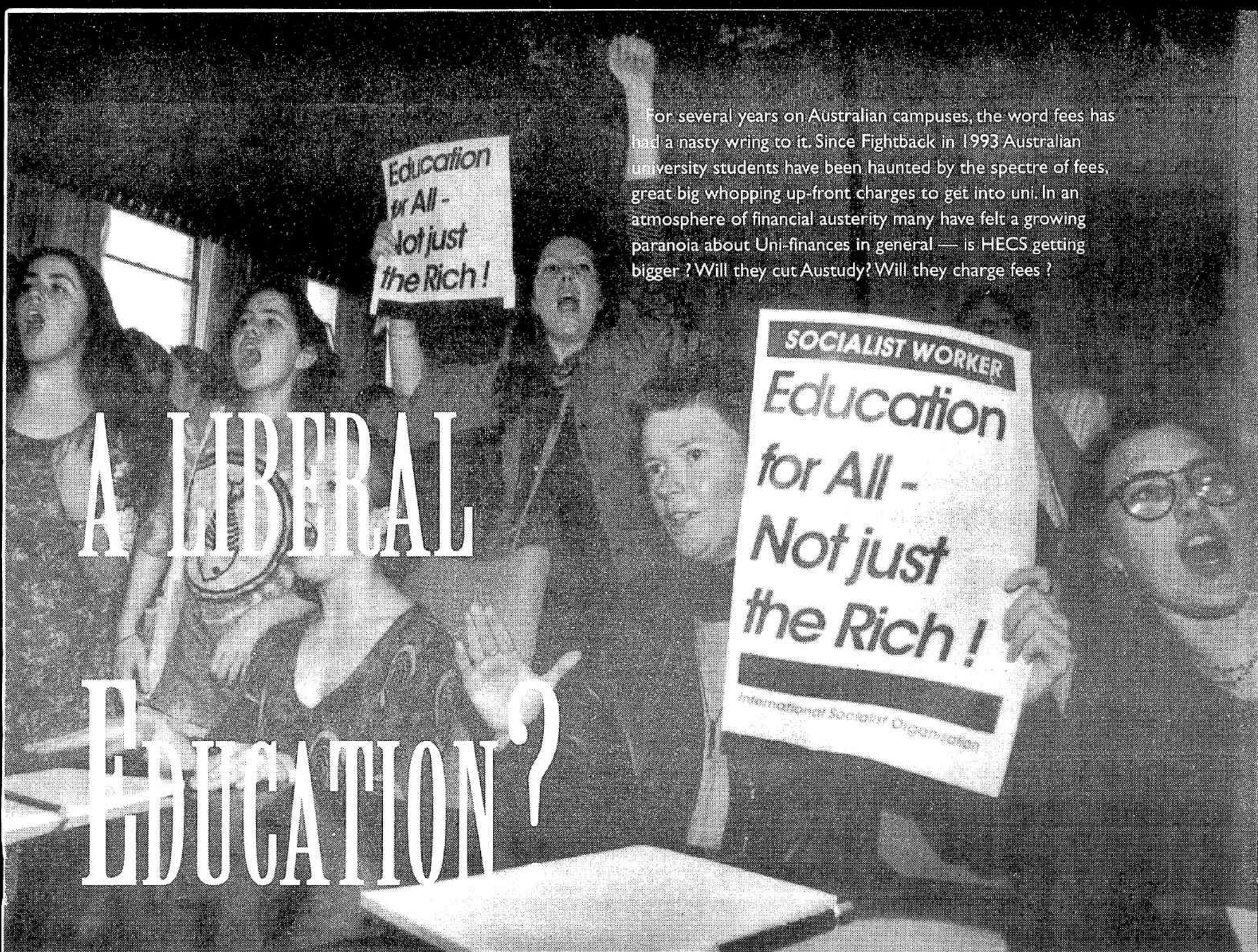
Opportunities for all-nighters are now restricted as a result of the new computer room policy.

Late in first semester of this year the University began a policy of closing a number of computer rooms around the ANU between the hours of 10pm and 8am. This policy was adopted in response to the continuing theft of thousands of dollars worth of computer equipment from ANU computer rooms.

By concentrating students into a limited number of computer rooms the TLTSU (Teaching and Learning Technology Support Unit) is hoping that the number of thefts will be reduced. Those rooms being left open are the teaching labs: Copland G25,

Baldessin, FTC (Faculties Teaching Centre) 110, Dedman LG6 and the general purpose labs: Dedman LG4 and Copland G34. With only a number of rooms open late at night there will be less chance of thieves being able to gain access to a computer room and find it unoccupied.

As this policy has only been in place for a number of months its success in reducing theft is yet to be seen. It appears that the rooms will continue to be closed while ever student needs are being satisfied by the remaining open rooms.



For several years on Australian campuses, the word fees has had a nasty wring to it. Since Fightback in 1993 Australian university students have been haunted by the spectre of fees, great big whopping up-front charges to get into uni. In an atmosphere of financial austerity many have felt a growing paranoia about Uni-finances in general — is HECS getting bigger? Will they cut Austudy? Will they charge fees?

A LIBERAL EDUCATION?

In 1994 the proposal to charge fees for graduate legal workshop brought an explosion of protest and the occupation of the Chancery Annex. This time, it's bigger; Up-Front fees, cuts to Austudy and increases in HECS are amongst the proposals being debated to find cuts to higher education.

Liberal Education Minister Amanda Vanstone has made it clear: there will be cuts and Universities will have to deal with them. This is a major abrogation on pre-election promises; Robert Hill said plainly and clearly that the real level of funding to higher education and Universities would be maintained.

Enter the 8 billion dollar budget "black hole". In the wake of the appearance of the deficit, the Liberal Government has embarked on an bleak program of public expenditure slashing of which higher education must bear its share of the burden.

The proposed cuts have angered student groups across the country. If the cuts go ahead it may bring the biggest student-government confrontations since the Vietnam War.

Pre-Election promises

Before the election, Robert Hill, the Shadow Minister for Education won over many in higher education by promising that there would be no cuts. In a glowing policy statement replete with vague rhetoric about "making education open and accessible to all" he was clear on the financial bottom line. The Coalition, he claimed, was committed to maintaining existing levels of funding. No

cuts to Austudy, no Up-Front fees, and no increases in HECS.

In the lead up to the last election Robert Hill repeatedly assured that there would be no up-front fees, no changes to HECS, and no cuts to University funding. "No up-front fees, no vouchers" the

Senator told Paul Bongiorno, "we're not planning changes to the HECS system." Hill claimed that "if students support us and we get elected; we will keep

"If the cuts go ahead it may bring the biggest student-government confrontations since the Vietnam War."

our promises and they will be better off."

The Liberal policy statement on higher education contained this primary pledge: that existing levels of higher education funding would be maintained.

As "Honest John" told us, this was a government which would honour its election pledges. Howard made no greater promise than to honour his pre-election promises. Throughout the last election campaign Howard repeatedly stressed the themes of honesty and accountability in politicians. Since then he has promised apparent financial alchemy; that the coalition would deliver on promises despite the existence of the budget deficit.

Howard was explicit about honouring commitments in an interview with John Laws; the government would run a budget deficit if necessary to meet promises. He also claimed that promises were made on the basis of an expected surplus inherited from

Labor, but ultimately promises were promises. "Honest John" received a mandate — "Wily John" did not. President of the National Union of Students, Lori Faraone has expressed anger at what she regards as deliberate attempts to mislead the Australian electorate.

Soon after the election Treasurer Costello announced there was a budget deficit of 8 billion dollars inherited from the previous government. Addressing this new crisis was to be a major priority of the new government, perhaps more so than pre-election promises.

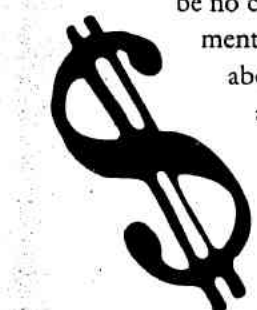
The ramifications of the "black-hole" are well-known to Canberrans — massive cuts to public expenditure across the board; the public service, health, social security, industrial relations etc.

The deficit is the primary rationale for cuts to higher education.

There has been widespread scepticism over the depth of the so-called "black hole." Critics of the government claim that the crisis has been manufactured; that it is an elaborate rationale for a major pruning of public expenditure driven by conservative ideology. Phillip Adams, at a demonstration recently claimed that "there is no crisis — this is purely a conservative ideological agenda."

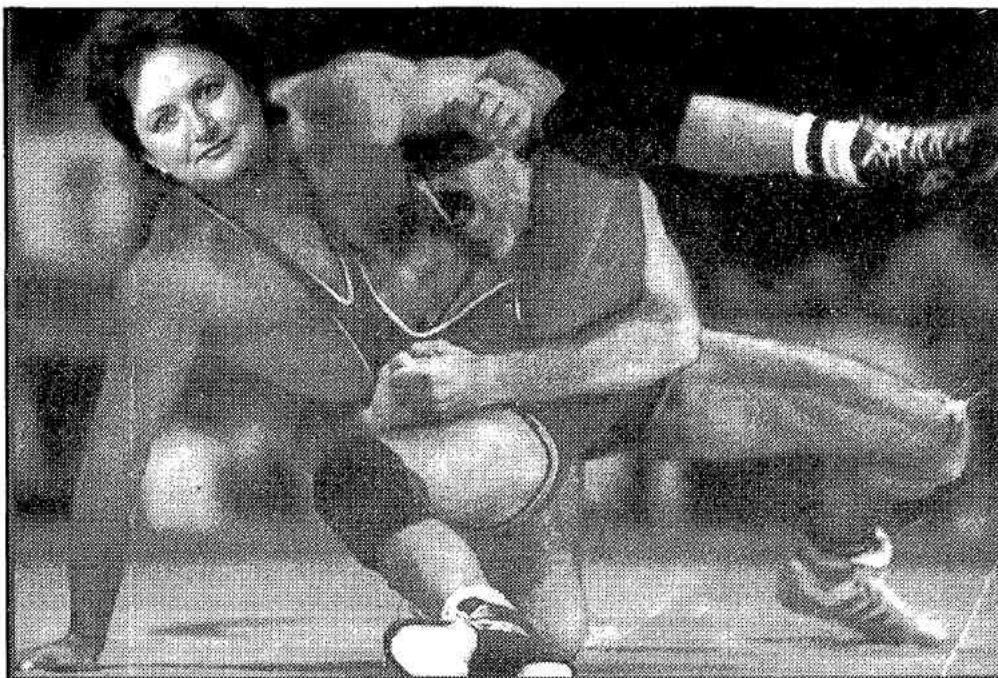
The National Union of Students (NUS) is extremely skeptical over the size of the so called "black hole". "It's basically a fictional rationale designed to legitimize attacks on students", Dave Taylor, education officer, told Woroni.

Economists themselves continue to debate the size of the deficit. Professor John Quiggin has cast doubt on the size of the budget deficit. He argues that the figures have been manipulated to maximise the size of the deficit. As such, Quiggin, NUS and others claim,



Woroni presents: The deaths of Amanda Vanstone

DEATH 1: during a congratulatory hug, John Howard finds out something he really didn't want to know. The shock caused him to squeeze a little too hard, causing Ms Vanstone's death. Don't ask about the medical details.



there is no moral or intellectual rationale for spending cuts or breaking promises. 26 year old Democrats Senator Natasha Stott Despoja has also cast doubt on the size of the budget deficit.

Vanstone has been resolute on the need for funding cuts in higher education. This sector, according to the Minister must bear its share of the burden made necessary by the budget black hole. She has however gone about her task with a zealotry that has won her reputation as a head kicker.

Vanstone's personality, which ANU liberals described as having the subtlety of a US army drill sergeant has coloured the debate. Like many women in politics she has acquired a reputation for toughness. She has been described as a rottweiler, as Roseanne, and as a "philistine intent on destroying the higher education sector.

Almost revelling in playing the axewoman, she has not flinched in bringing the bad news to Universities — institutions she has claimed "have had it too good for too long."

She drew the wrath of students recently when she described them as overprivileged. Her effigy has been burnt at demonstrations, and in Wollongong, students mutilated a paper-mache Vanstone with a chainsaw.

On a personal level she seems to have an ambiguous resentment towards the academic establishment. "I am not a very bright person" she told a meeting of Vice Chancellors "after I got my law degree people thought I was, but I was the same old me." She seemed to be commenting the on "credentialist prejudice of the community."

Vanstone has fuelled speculation over the size of the budget cuts with her bombshell pronouncements. "There will be cuts", she said, "Deal with it." Cuts could be anywhere between five and twelve per cent". However, she proclaimed recently, speculation over the size of budget cuts must stop as "they may damage the national interest." Sure thing Amanda.

What does it all mean for me ?

Currently, speculate is all we can do about what will happen to higher education in the August Budget as the Minister has made no definite statements as to details. Vanstone will inform Universities of particular savings they must make. Then those Universities may have autonomy in administering those budget savings. Some Vice Chancellors may favour up-front under-

graduate fees; like Deane Terrell with legal workshop in 1994. Others may prefer vouchers and increases in HECS. We may get a combination of all three. At the moment there a myriad of possible scenarios being debated.

A National Commission of Audit was established by the Treasurer, Peter Costello, almost immediately after the election. It was set up to find ways to address the larger than expected budget deficit. It was to do this by finding ways to improve the Commonwealth's fiscal position. Naturally this meant suggesting cuts to government expenditure.

The Commission's area of investigation was broad, as a consequence their recommendations regarding higher education was brief. Central to the commission's report were recommendations 4.18 and 4.20.

Recommendation 4.18 suggested funding Higher Education through the provision of commonwealth funded scholarships given to school leavers. Recommendation 4.20 suggested that universities should no longer receive any operating grants instead gaining all funding from scholarships, HECS, student fees and other commercial revenue.

These recommendations are hopelessly broad. Topics such as the ability of mature age students to gain scholarships and research funding are left

The Liberal Students' Club Perspective

Woroni contacted the ANU Liberal Club to ask how Liberal students felt about cuts to funding. Nick Tolley, President of the club, handed over his President's Report in the latest Patriot (the club news letter) and said "This should be helpful."

Mr Tolley summed up the current situation in these terms — "The fact is that cuts are going to be made. Mandy [Senator Vanstone] has thrown down the gauntlet at the feet of the Vice Chancellors whom have shown an increasing willingness to cut academia ahead of university administration. This is a disgrace."

The Liberal Club provided a more in depth response later saying "The club is opposed to any compulsory up-front fee. This principle forms the foundation of our belief that there should be equity of access to higher education"

On the wider issue of cuts the club questioned the expected impact and extent saying "Student Associations and NUS are always very quick to blame the government for cuts to student services when very often it is the university at fault. At many campus around Australia funds meant for students are channelled elsewhere. Universities are not as deprived as they make out — look at the University of Queensland for example, able to takeover Bond University."

"The Liberal Club looks forward to budget night when ludicrous claims such as the abolition of HECS and Austudy will be revealed as pure scaremongering ... What it comes down to is this: we are the privileged ones at Uni, and we will be the principal beneficiaries of our degrees when we graduate. To expect someone else to pay for all this is selfish."

The Liberal Club also felt that to some extent students should share some of the burden for fixing the budget deficit with the rest of the community.

The position of Liberal students is difficult, on one hand they accept that some cuts are inevitable and even needed, on the other they remain staunchly opposed to any measure that will diminish access to education. The dominant impression they give is a lack of confidence in Vanstone, portraying her as incapable of bringing about change in a way that would keep everyone happy, or at least minimises hurt. However they do believe that there is scope for universities to be less of a burden on the public purse.

DEATH 2: In rehearsal for her next meeting with the Vice-Chancellor's, Ms Vanstone's self-confidence got the better of her, and she took on the wrong man. Mr M.Ali was not impressed.



The Democrat Perspective

The Democrats are in position to block the budget in the Senate. Consequently their position on cuts to higher education is critical to the debate.

Senator Stott Despoja, the higher education spokesperson for the Democrats said in a recent news release "Contrary to the views of the Minister, students are not the luckiest group in the community. They do not live in ivory towers. They live in squalor and often juggle two or three part time jobs while studying in order to get a decent job."

"Students and young people are demanding access to education because they know that these days education is a prerequisite for employment."

"It is incumbent upon the Government to provide young Australians with equity and access to education, to provide young Australians with a door to full and rewarding employment, and to ensure that education is the right of all Australians, not just the wealthy few."

"I will explore every legislative avenue available to ensure that the Government honour its election promises and its responsibility to the higher education sector."

It would appear that the Democrats would most likely be opposed to funding cuts to higher education. This is borne out by the education policy the Democrats ran on in the last election, they advocated the abolishment of HECS, abolishing up-front post-graduate fees and auditing and redressing what they saw as illegal course materials fees which allegedly contravene the Higher Education Funding Act. Most significantly they run on a policy of increasing the allocation of funds to higher education.

DEATH 3: Ms Vanstone is mistaken for a pimple and squeezed - an easy error to make



DEATH 3: If only General Custer had got the right man.

university funding comes from operating grants, which are determined by the number and profile of students enrolled, which is in turn regulated to an extent by government.

The Commission seems to want to scrap this scheme in favour of a more market oriented scheme. This would see school leavers given a scholarship to attend uni, say worth \$5000. This scholarship can be used at any university. If an arts degree cost \$10000 the school leaver would have to make up the difference through either a HECS debt or up front fee or some other method — this issue is not addressed by the Commission. The important point to note is that the student pays for the lot, eventually.

Although not expressly stated in the Commission's recommendations it would appear that the cost of degrees would be set by the institutions, giving rise to a greater "market" for education. The Commission's report is definitely not government policy. It is however a good indication of the sort of recommendations that will be considered when the budget is thrashed out.

This lack of clarity about the plans of the government has given rise to a lot of speculation as to what shape the expected cuts will take. Indeed some people have suggested that this speculation has been fueled by a government eager to find out just how much they can get away with in a controversial area.

Gavin Moodie in *The Australian* (24 April) suggested changes that may occur to higher education as a result of budget cuts. These included a simple HECS increase, the removal of the institutions exemption on rates, land tax and sales tax. Another suggestion was making departments within universities pay for the centralised administration costs they incur (ie stuff provided by the central administration like office space and electricity), the argument being that this would make each department efficient in their use of administrative services. The consolidation of subjects and courses with higher staff to student ratios was also mooted as another way to cut high administration and salary costs. Another suggestion was that universities amalgamate, presumably this would see ANU and UC join to form one mega graduate factory, this once again would see administration and teaching costs streamlined over areas of duplication, a simple economies of scale argument.

So far the broad themes that come out of the debate is that the amount students pay will probably be increased and universities will probably be forced to cut costs.

It is therefore hardly surprising that HECS has

come under the microscope. Dr Bruce Chapman in an article in *The Australian* raised the possibilities of changing the rate of repayment, increasing the rate of interest on the debt, decreasing the income threshold for the first repayment, allowing student who did not qualify for a HECS funded place to pay upfront fees, and increasing the basic amount charged. Essentially the government has the option of structuring HECS so that the universities receive more money sooner from student they have given degrees to.

The National Union of Students (NUS), a body somewhat opposed to the government on basic ideological principles, has also been busy suggesting ways the government may cut funding. They have raised many possibilities, some of the more interesting are:

- Introducing differential HECS, based on the cost of the course and perceived future income. This would mean that your med student who spends half their life at uni and gets to play with expensive things like dead people and will probably earn heaps, would get stung with a HECS bill substantially bigger than your arts student who reads books and does most of their work by thinking about stuff.
- Cutting the number of places available to students.
- removing the optional loans scheme on Austudy or scrapping it completely in favour of a scholarship scheme.
- Restructuring the latter years of medicine or law in order to introduce upfront fees.

The speculation will clearly continue right up to budget day, just recently the possibility of upfront fees for second degrees was raised. Until budget day people will be in the dark. However as commentators, students and institutions resign themselves to some form of funding cut and fee increase the possibility of such measures being implemented increase.

So brace yourselves for the August budget. We have been warned about what's in store. Despite previous explicit election promises not to cut the education budget, not to cut Austudy or to raise HECS, we may see all of these. The so called "budget black hole" may be the reason, although NUS, the Democrats and others have implied conservative ideology is really behind spending cuts. Vanstone, the Liberals appointed axewoman is handling her portfolio in a confrontationalist manner. Students, and student organisations are not happy about the cuts — they will fight them tooth and nail. Perhaps confrontation is what we can expect more of from now on.

Tom McCawley
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liberal attacks on education~

- what they mean
- how to fight them

compiled by martin iltis of resistance





All students facing full cost fees

The Coalition Government's Audit Commission is proposing the most radical reforms to university education since free education was introduced in 1974. The previous Labor government started the policy of making education in affordable by introducing HECS, making it difficult for most students to qualify for Austudy, cutting real funding to universities resulting in increasing charges for course materials, up front post-graduate fees and less resources for vital services such as libraries.

The Audit Commission's main proposal is to abolish direct government funding to universities and instead force universities to charge fees to achieve full cost recovery from students; about \$12, 000 for a year's study.

Education for all, not just the rich

Under such a scheme, students would compete for scholarships to cover part of the course costs. The rest would be funded through increased HECS payments making HECS truly a life long debt.

Students who miss out on scholarships would be able to buy a place at university if they are able to afford the huge up front fees.

Obviously these charges would be a prohibitive barrier to education to all, except those from a privileged background. Those from disadvantaged groups would be especially discriminated against. When the previous ALP Government introduced a \$250 'administration' charge in 1986, the Government's monitoring committee found that women, mature age students and part-time students were the groups most adversely affected.

The Government has attempted to justify its fee and HECS proposals by claiming that students are privileged. Yet every measure proposed will act as a barrier and exclude women, working class people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other disadvantaged groups from universities. If the government was serious about addressing privilege it would increase taxes for upper and middle class people rather than introducing fees.

Rubbery figures and liberal lies

The economic justification for the Liberal's proposed 12% cuts to university funding is the mythical \$8 billion deficit. This figure is unreliable as government debt calculations rely on forecasts of the rates of unemployment, inflation and economic debt. In fact Treasury recently released figures showing a much higher rate of growth for the March quarter, 4.8% rather than the 1.8% forecast. This illustrates how the apparent deficit is merely an excuse used by the Liberal's to introduce their 'user pays' ideology.

Even if we accept that there is a budget blow out let's put it into perspective. \$8 billion represents less than 2% of Australia's GDP. By comparison the USA runs a budget deficit of 3% and Tory Britain one of 7%. Australia's accumulated debt is the second lowest of the OECD advanced capitalist economies.

Australia's level of public expenditure is also the second lowest in the OECD and it has been falling for the past ten years. The level of government expenditure on education is also falling (0.8% of GDP before the Dawkin's reform of the late 1980s, now down to 0.54% of GDP) and is very low in comparison with the other OECD countries. These statistics show that Australia has had low spending governments (both Labor and Liberal) and by international standards a low government deficit problem.

The whole budget deficit scare is a beat-up. The Liberal's have manufactured the debt crisis to make people accept even more pain and hardship than they did under Labor. This is so they can proceed with their right wing ideology of slashing essential public services such as education and welfare. At the same time the rich benefit. There are no moves to finance the Government coffers by addressing rampant tax minimisation by the very rich or by reversing the slashing of corporate taxes introduced by the previous Government. Instead the Government targets those worst off in society such as the unemployed, students and welfare recipients such as single mothers.

Proposed Liberal attacks on Austudy, increase in HECS, up-front fees and loans: the implications

Education is fundamental to people's ability to fully participate in society and should therefore be available to all. Fees and other educational costs, including HECS, restrict access to higher education and reinforce social and economic divisions in society. The proposed Government range of fee and HECS options would further reduce access to education and are an abrogation of the Government's election promises (surprise, surprise).

Research shows that fees, in what ever form, act as a barrier to participation in education. A 1989 government study on the impact of HECS found that 25% of undergraduate students cited HECS as a very important factor in their decision not to enrol. The proposed changes to HECS, listed below, would further increase the deterrent effect of HECS. Proposed changes include:

1. Lowering of the repayments thresholds. As a result, graduates would be forced to pay back HECS on very much lower incomes. At the moment compulsory repayment of HECS starts at \$27,675 per annum. It has been proposed to lower this to about \$20,000. This would mean ex-students on incomes lower than the national average would be forced to carry the burden of the Government's failure to properly fund education;
2. Increasing HECS by about \$1000 per annum;
3. Different HECS rate for different courses. For example students in Science might be charged \$4500 while those in medicine \$6000 per annum;
4. Introducing HECS interest rates of the order of 10% on HECS debts.

Austudy is already an inadequate system of income support for students. Those few who actually qualify to get the full amount receive an amount that is less than 65% of the poverty line! Rather than increase that amount, the previous Government introduced the Austudy Supplement. Under this scheme, students could trade of some of their Austudy grant for a loan. Students who take out the maximum Austudy Supplement option currently graduate from a three year university degree with a \$30,000 debt.

This Government has indicated that it will further dismantle the Austudy grant scheme by replacing it with a non-optional loans scheme. As has been illustrated above, an increase in HECS is a deterrent to study. Similarly a loans scheme would also result in a deterrent to study for a number of reasons including:

1. Such a scheme would discourage those from low income and other socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This can be illustrated by international precedents. In Denmark working class participation in the university system decreased from 25% to 8% in a four year period when loans were introduced;
2. A student loans system is a direct attack on those who are economically worse off. The introduction of a loans scheme would mean that the combined HECS / Loan debt to a person from an economically disadvantaged background would be well in excess of \$30, 000 on graduation;
3. The impact of a loans scheme would impact more heavily on women than men. Tertiary educated women tend to be in less well paid jobs than their male counterparts. Women also spend a greater proportion of their lives in unpaid work and retain primary responsibility for child care. Already research shows that women take far longer on average to pay off their educational debts. A loans scheme would further increase the burden of debt on women graduates;
4. Students with large HECS and Loans debts are less likely to undertake post-graduate studies, especially when there are large up-front fees involved. This effect will be magnified for groups traditionally under represented in post-graduate study such as women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Presently each university receives funding from the Commonwealth for a specified number (or quota) of students. The Government is proposing to reduce the number of funded places and allow universities to charge up-front fees for students enrolled over the quota. This could range from \$8,000 a year for a BA to \$20, 000 for a medical

degree. The obvious implication is that the funded places would continue to be cut back effectively meaning universal up-front fees for all under graduate courses. It would appear that this Government is bent on returning to the "good old days" when education was reserved for rich, elite males!

Voluntary student unionism = no student services

Part of this Government's attacks on the cost of education is the proposed introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU). Presently at ANU part of the General Services Fee (GSF) each student pays at the start of each year is distributed to the student union body to fund things such as *Woroni*, Clubs and Societies, the Women's Department and a number of other student run amenities. Under the Liberal VSU plans such bodies would be denied funding. In Victoria where VSU legislation has already been introduced by the Kennett Liberal government, most campuses are now without a student paper. Even the conservative Australian Vice- Chancellors Committee (AVCC) see the necessity of universal student unionism. The executive director of the AVCC, Frank Hambly, has stated that "...representative student unionism works best when membership is universal." Student unions were unlike other unions because they provided amenities and services... and were "vital to the working of universities." (SMH 9/7/96).

When the Liberal's claim that VSU is about freedom of choice and the democratic right of the individual, two points have to be made. Firstly, under the legislation universities will withhold funding from student organisations for all political purposes. In Victoria, where VSU has been introduced by the Liberal Kennett government, democratic elections of student representatives has been banned. Student bodies are unable to decide how to spend students money. Secondly, the GSF fee is still compulsory. The difference is that the university administration, not the student body and its representatives, will decide how the money is spent.

VSU is not about democracy. It is about taking away the right and the ability of students to defend their interests through crippling our student organisations.

What can we do?

On 30th May, 25,000 students and staff around the country, including 2,000 in Canberra, demonstrated against the education cuts. Such a show of solidarity from the higher education sector against the cuts was a powerful start to the campaign. The Government fears an organised student body, staff unions, united tertiary sector and widespread community support. This show of strength against the proposed cuts has resulted in some muted suggestions from some quarters of the Liberal Party that the cuts will not be as severe as first proposed.

But attacks against education can only be defeated by continued action and agitation. For this reason as many students as possible must be involved in helping to organise the campaign against cuts. The best way to become involved is through the Education Action Group (EAG). The EAG is a cross campus forum to discuss and decide on the best way forward for the campaign.

The EAG meets every Monday at 6pm alternating between Canberra University and the Bridge at ANU.

The next National Day of Action has been scheduled for 7th August, a few days before the Budget. All students should get involved in the EAG to ensure the success of this action and future actions in the struggle for an equitable, affordable education for all. Education should be a right for all, not a privilege for a few.

Hemp Love



Described alternatively as “wonder crop” and “killer weed”, hemp has created considerable interest in Australia, chiefly among those who advocate for its widespread commercial production as a multipurpose crop and a solution to many of our environmental problems. Andrew Dempster reports.

When Murray Montgomery, Chair of the recent report Prospects for a Commercial Hemp Industry in Western Australia, started talking to people about the possibility of a hemp trial in his state, he was overwhelmed with the enthusiastic response he received. “When we went out and called for submissions, we actually had trouble finding someone to say no, to the point where I had to go on radio to see if there was anyone out there who had criticisms,” said Montgomery.

Of the 140 written submissions received by the committee and the 176 people who attended public meetings on the issue, almost all were in favour of a commercial hemp industry. Murray Criddell, National Party member for the Agricultural Region, is one of those people. Many of his constituents are socially conservative farmers who are nevertheless enthusiastic about hemp’s prospects in Western Australia. “They’re more than interested—they’re keen to have a crack at it and see what the trials do,” he said.

Eventually, the knockers responded to Montgomery’s radio plea. The Department of Conservation and Land Management delivered a highly critical written submission which played down hemp’s touted environmental benefits and expressed concern that hemp may threaten the viability of Western Australia’s emerging bluegum pulpwood industry. The Depart-

ment’s clear preference was to can the trial before it even began to examine hemp’s viability as a commercial crop.

Montgomery disagrees. “If a hemp industry was set up, it could only enhance the value of our bluegum plantations,” he said. “Short fibre and long fibre is mixed together to produce paper, and bluegum is a short fibre. Currently, we import long fibre into Australia, and, if it’s viable, hemp would replace those imports.”

Western Australia is the latest in a string of Australian states to allow agricultural trials of hemp. The first modern investigation of the crop’s growing potential began in Tasmania in 1992. Since then, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have joined the research programme with trials of their own. In March this year, the Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation will build on the research which is currently in progress to produce the first national report examining hemp’s commercial viability.

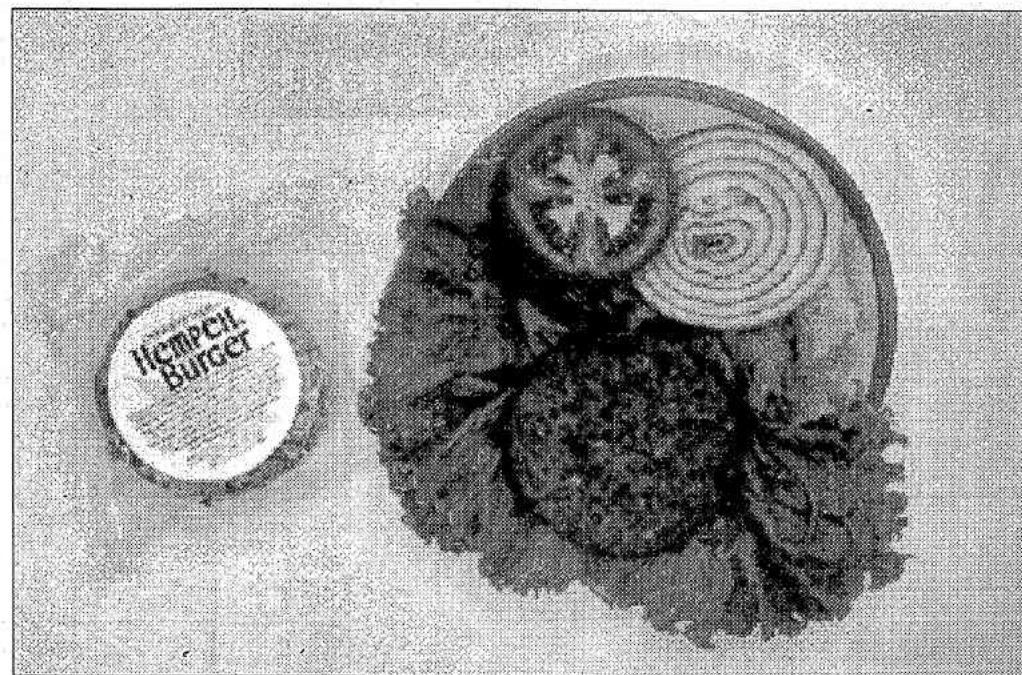
Hemp is grown commercially in many countries around the world. China has been growing hemp for at least 6000 years and is currently the world’s largest exporter of hemp paper and textiles. In Europe, Romania is the largest commercial producer, with 40000 acres under plantation in 1993.

Hemp produces one of the strongest known natural fibres, and prior to its prohibition earlier this century,

was regarded as the single most important industrial crop in the world. Extensively used for clothing and highly valued by the shipping world for its strength and durability, it was the world’s most traded commodity until advances in cotton processing technology early last century allowed cotton to begin its domination of the cloth market. In 1938, the journal Popular Mechanics claimed that hemp could be used in over 25000 products “from cellophane to dynamite”.

One of hemp’s main advantages as an agricultural crop is its ability to be grown without the need for pesticides. In some countries, this property is utilised and hemp leaves placed in grain and linen as an insect repellent. Because pesticides pose one of the greatest threats to the health of our inland river systems, hemp is viewed by many environmentalists as a favourable alternative to cotton, which is a pesticide-intensive crop.

Dr Kate Short is the founder of the National Toxics Network, a community-based network of individuals and organisations working to reduce the toxic chemical load in Australia. According to Dr Short economists and statisticians continue to overestimate the contribution of cotton to the Australian economy because they overlook the negatives in the cotton cost-benefit equation. In particular, pesticides used in cotton production cause substantial damage to air, soil and water.



Above: Hempeh Burger — Tasty and nutritious hemp seed is rich in protein

"The presence of pesticide residues in river sediment is causing significant damage to wildlife," said Dr Short. "Human communities living in cotton growing areas are also poisoned, sometimes slowly through the water they drink and sometimes quickly, through pesticides drifting directly into homes and communities, or onto cotton chippers in the fields."

"The relative ecological impacts of hemp and cotton are yet to be fully determined, but unlike cotton, hemp should not require massive pesticide use and it appears to need less water for the volume of fibre produced."

Another advantage hemp offers over other crops is its capacity to improve the structure of the soil it is grown in, stabilising and aerating it in preparation for the next crop. Under most soil

"Unlike cotton, hemp should not require massive pesticide use and it needs less water for the volume of fibre produced."

conditions, hemp produces a tap root, generally around thirty centimetres deep. Planting hemp in rotation with other crops would be of considerable benefit to Australian farmers, given the declining structure of many agricultural soils. Furthermore, when sown at high density, hemp grows quickly and rapidly chokes out other plants, leaving the soil free of weeds after harvesting.

Given that thousands of different varieties of hemp are available, it is likely that several will be found to suit Australian conditions. The real question, then, is not whether hemp will be agriculturally viable in Australia but whether it will be profitable to grow. Caroline Graham, Horticultural Development Manager with the Yorke Regional Development Board, describes herself as one of the "numbercrunchers" who are scrutinising hemp's commercial feasibility. According to Graham, hemp's viability here as a crop depends on market conditions. To be successful, it requires a stable and potentially growing market in which prices can be quantified and assured for a reasonable number of years.

Unfortunately, little is known about current market conditions. "According to the figures we have there's currently a \$3m market for hemp in Australia. I would question whether that's actually the true worth of that market — \$3m is not an indicative figure because participants in the industry are trading amongst themselves to an extent. We need to quantify to what extent that happens," said Graham. Feasibility studies building on the existing agricultural trials are

essential to predicting the success of the industry.

Chris Burnett, clothing designer and director of Young Disciples clothing company, has no doubts about hemp's market potential. He has been designing with Chinese-sourced hemp since August. Hemp is an attractive material for clothes because of its strength and because the fibre softens when washed, making clothes comfortable to wear.

"There are two aspects of hemp which make it worthwhile for me," said Burnett. "Firstly, there's a lot of interest in it from young people. Because it's marketed as being associated with marijuana, they get the feeling that they're doing something 'on the edge'. Secondly, there's interest more broadly

throughout the community because it's more environmentally friendly than cotton."

The Australian market for hemp clothing is, however, still young. "Two or three years ago there was

only one clothing label that was doing hemp, but it created a lot of interest. At this stage it's selling well but it hasn't exploded in the way that wholesalers and retailers were expecting. People in Australia aren't yet aware that it is available from mainstream clothing manufacturers"

With widespread enthusiasm for the latest hemp trials, it would be easy to fall into the trap of thinking that hemp could be the solution to all the world's problems. Kate Short is, however, sceptical. "Ecologists should be wary of the 'wonder solution' to any problem. There is never a quick fix solution to complex problems, and sustainable solutions always involve people as well as resources and technologies"

It is, however, early days for commercial hemp in Australia. Out of production for over fifty years, considerable investment into new technology for harvesting and processing will be required before hemp's potential here is fully realised.

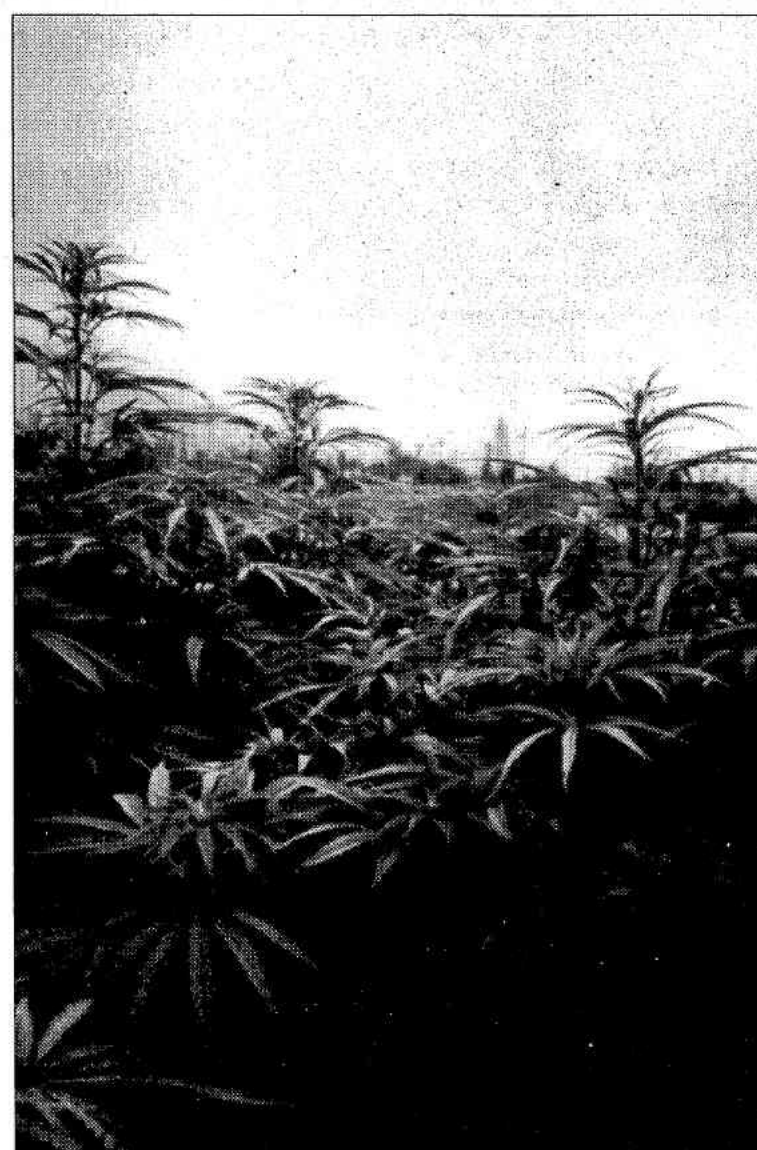
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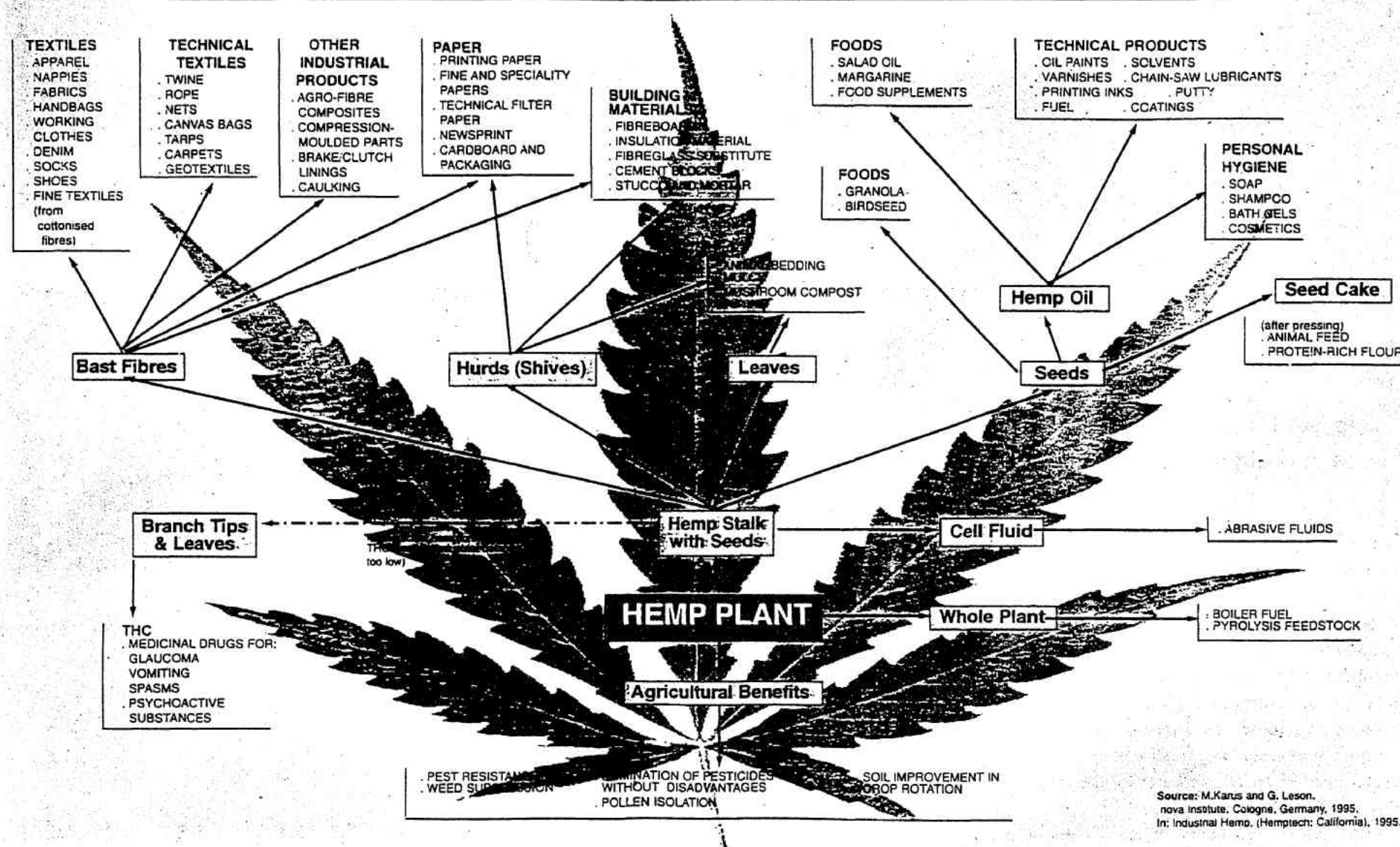
Above: Assassin of Youth — decades of misinformation have framed hemp as a singularly destructive "killer weed"

Below: Repulsive — Hemp is naturally resistant to insect pests

photo by Sam White



MODUS OPERANDI: ASSASSIN OF YOUTH



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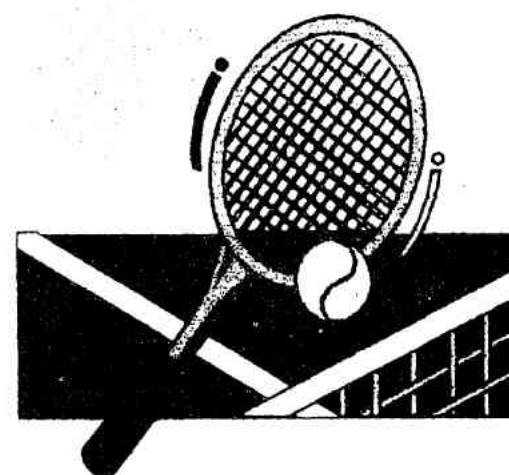
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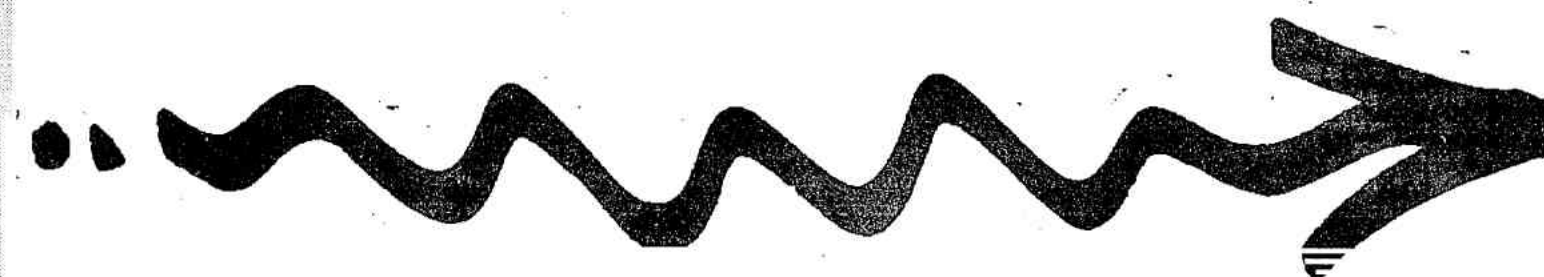
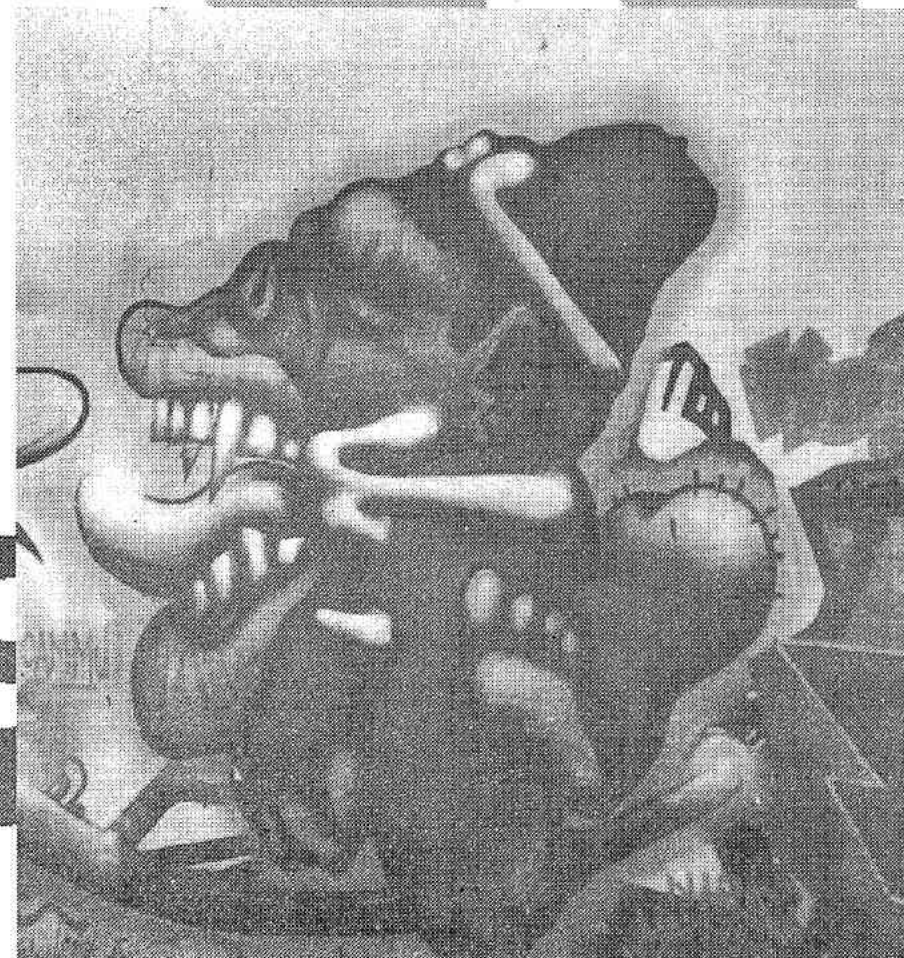
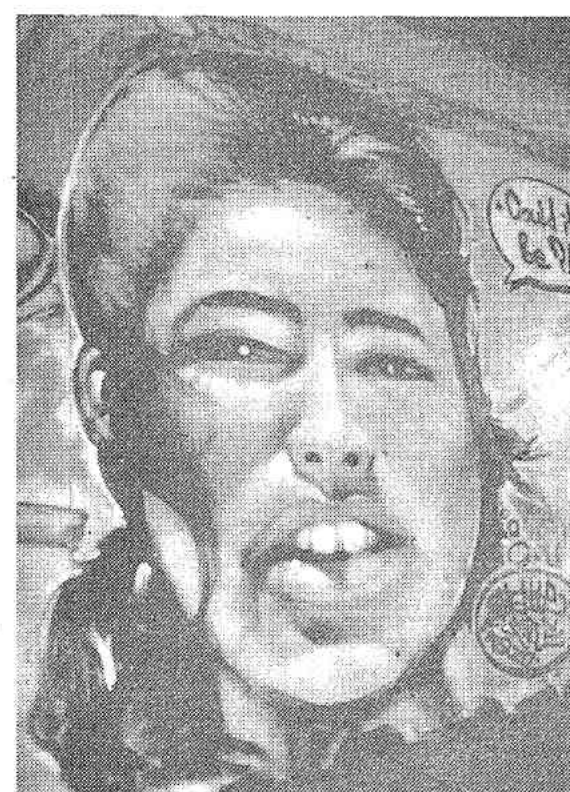
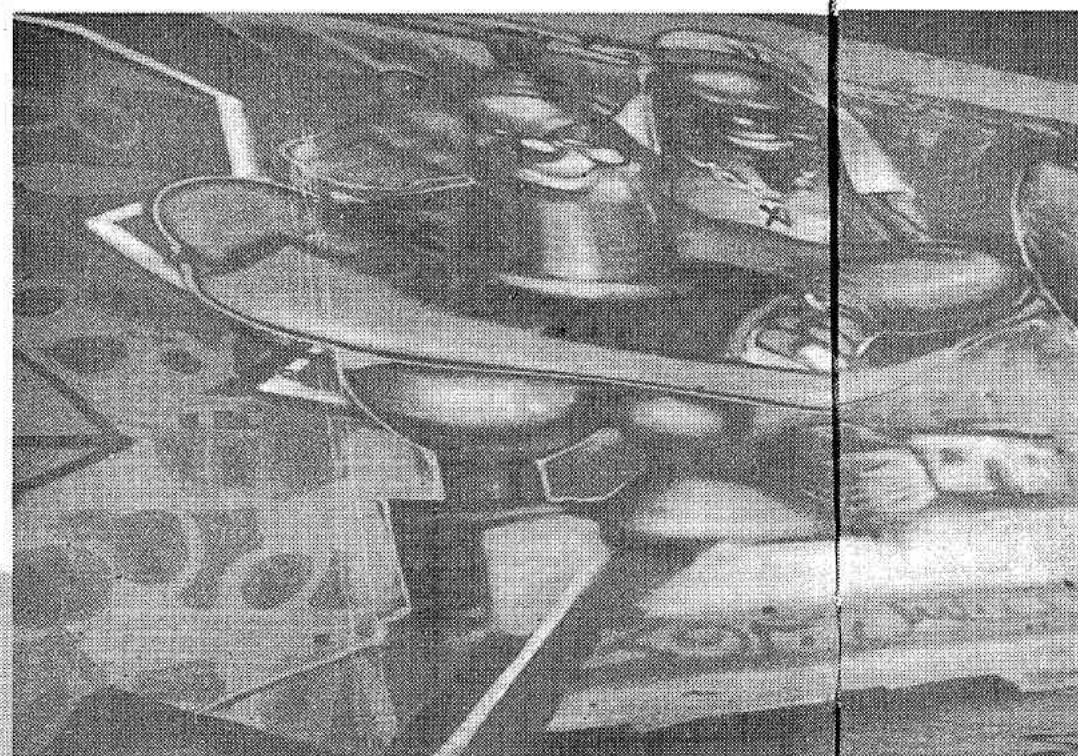
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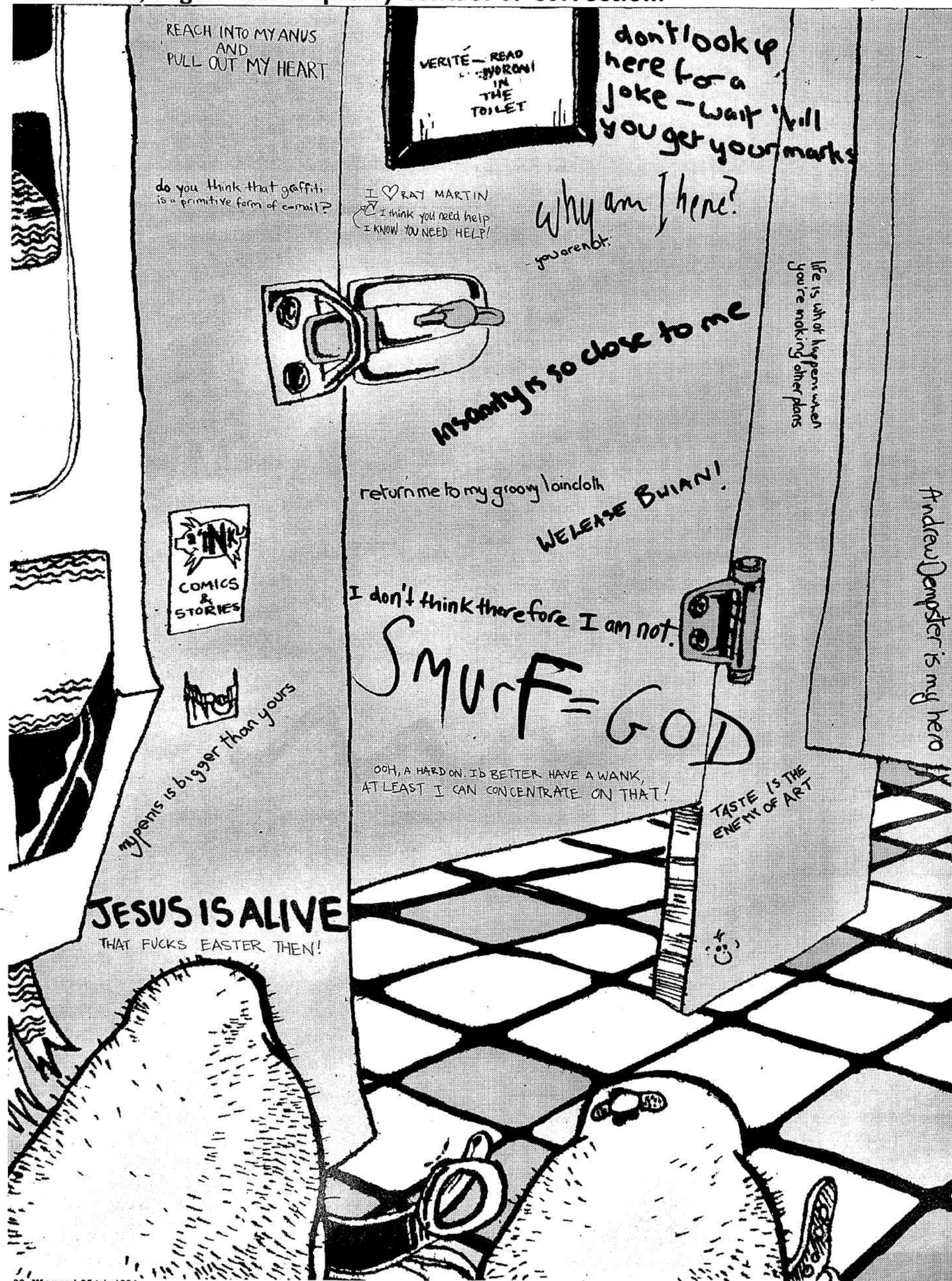
DEATH TO BLANK WALLS, PT.1

They're everywhere,
especially in Canberra;
blank boring walls. It seems a waste not to
touch them and try to reach out to someone else
In this issue we showcase some of Canberra's
hidden talents.

photos by Peter Baldwin



DEATH TO BLANK WALLS, PT.2 And within the reeking
toilets and dank corridors of our uni, amateur humour continues to manifest
and breed, regardless of quality control or correction.



JURASSIC
technologies
revenant

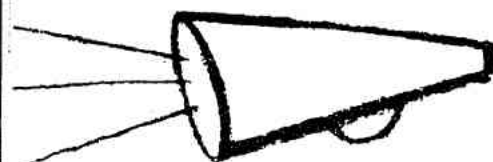
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Labor



P is for Promise ... so they told me. First higher education funding, then back to the youth wage. How many promises could one government break in only a few months? I'm willing to put money on double figures by the end of the year; anyone interested in a little wager should send money via the Union Board office.

Broken Promise #3: Kick a Dole Bludger today!
Continuing the grand conservative tradition of kicking soft targets, the Howard government has showing itself to be in fine form as it took aim at the large group of people in our society who are unemployed. Their approach to helping people, especially young people, to find jobs has been nothing less than a pathetic joke, as they offer cynical platitudes about the depth of their concern while cutting training programs. Perhaps Johnny and his favourite canine friend watched too many of the Paxton episodes of *A Current Affair*?

There are no simple solutions to the issue of unemployment, and I doubt it is something that will ever really be resolved (no matter how hard Howard tries to turn the clock back to the social simplicity of the 1950s), so I'm not about to offer you any trite answers. However, I think it's abundantly clear to anyone with an IQ above room temperature that reducing the number of training programs, as well as cutting the funding to those programs that have survived the big chop, is hardly the way to ensure that someone looking for a job will be equipped with the skills necessary to find it.

Even if you have managed to get inside the closing door of retraining, you'll then have to contend with filling in your dole diary while you apply for jobs. This little innovation from Howard and Senator Jocelyn Newman, who is better known for offering homespun advice to her fellow senators, requires the signatures of employers to prove you have been looking for work and, quite rightly, is widely criticised by welfare groups.

Broken Promise #4: It's your ABC — brought to you by our sponsors...
News of the ABC's funding being cut by \$65 million dollars over the next two years has outraged the millions of Australians who watch and listen to the only truly national TV/radio services. The 1 in every 5 ABC employees who are about to lose their jobs weren't exactly happy either. The Federal Government is trying desperately to weasel out of its pre-election promise to maintain existing funding levels for the ABC for their entire term of office by claiming what they actually meant when they said 'term of office' was really just the rest of this year.

Yeah, we believe you guys. No, really we do. If you'd like to see it written in black and white, you can check out your nearest handy copy of the Coalition manifesto (I'm sure all the Howard flunkies floating around this campus would be only too happy to loan you theirs).

Broken Promise #5: Can't see the forest for the woodchips?
And now for something completely different ... yet another broken promise from the man who supposedly values integrity and honesty. Despite all their mock sincerity, the Coalition apparently had no intention of honouring their commitments on the environment. Enough. Even for a Labor hack like myself it gets a bit much to have to recite such a long litany of Liberal failures.

Yvette Martin
Labor Students Club

Resistance



"Mainstream" William and the fight against education cuts.
ANU Students Association President, William Mackerras, has tried to divide the campaign against education cuts. He has done so by discrediting actions that aim to involve as many people as possible. Instead William favours an exclusivist, lobbyist approach presumably assuming that his personal authority carries more weight than a mass movement of people. This can be seen by his organisation of "the first mainstream rally..." on the same day as the 30th May National Day of Action against education cuts. Curiously while William's "mainstream" rally at Parliament House attracted comparatively few people, the National Day of Action rally was attended by 2,000 people in Canberra; this included academic staff and other workers on all the universities in Canberra, students from ANU and Canberra Uni and support from other unions. The National Day of Action mobilised over 20,000 around Australia. How "mainstream" do you want William?

William's rally, instead of focusing on empowering a wide range of people to demand change focused on giving politicians such as Opposition leader Kim Beasley and the Democrats Natasha Stott Despoja the space to present themselves and their parties as the champions of the campaign. The problem with handing over campaigns to politicians and relying on them exclusively to bring about changes, is that this approach tends to demobilise people in the campaigns. Politicians then succumb to the interests of big business or fail to act because of the apparent necessities of the parliamentary process. Politicians could play a useful role in campaigns if they help build them in the wider community. But the campaign must remain independent of the major parties.

What an irony it was to have Kim Beasley speaking at William's rally. Beasley was one of the Ministers of Education in the Labor government that cut real funding to education, introduced HECS, cut Austudy and forced foreign students to pay full up front fees. BUILDING A REAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE LIBERALS. It is certainly true that the vicious cuts being proposed by the Liberal's for education and the cuts they have already initiated in the public sector have been more severe than measures under the previous Labor government. However, it is a mistake to conclude that one should merely limit campaigns to re-electing a Labor government. In its time in office, the Labor Party pursued economic rationalist policies that have paved the way for the vicious attacks we now see from the Liberal's. A real alternative to Liberal and Labor involves building movements that challenge the economic rationalist orthodoxy of the major parties. It involves getting people active so that they can defend their common interests and work towards a society that puts people before profits. In the context of the education campaign this means that students can get active in the Education Action Group (EAG) which in conjunction with the National Tertiary Education Union and other unions organised the 30 May National Day of Action.

Resistance is a national socialist youth organisation that is active on campuses and within the general community. Resistance is active around a number of issues besides education including the environment, feminism, anti-nuclear campaigns, freedom for East Timor etc. If you want to become active in the struggle against the Liberal's and work towards building a better world then check out Resistance. For more information ring 2472424 or talk to a *Green Left Weekly* seller.

Natalie Zirngast

Liberal



Ladies and Gents;

The past few weeks have been so chock a block of non-stop crock that I just don't know where to start. A word of warning, though. This column will today be used to vent Nick's utter frustration at the shameful bankruptcy of the Left, Kenny Gee, student politicians, and if time permits, left handed gay whales. I therefore apologise for any consequent words which may be deemed offensive to the Left, Kenny Gee, student politicians, and left handed gay whales, but must note somewhat philosophically that shit happens. So I was reading in the Canberra Times, the day after my final exam, that results are to be withheld due to industrial action instigated by the National Tertiary Education Union. Fucking great! Nothing like working your ass off for weeks on end, only to be told by some union, which claims to be pursuing aims identical to your own, that the fruits of your labour are to be withheld until it suits them. I mean, who's the intended target here, folks? This sort of industrial action does little to ingratiate Joe Student to the NTEU cause. I mean, what the hell am I going to do about it, mate?

"Um, excuse me Minister. I am a student at the ANU who'd really like to, you know, see my exam results, and so I was sort of wondering if you could, like, capitulate to the demands of the NTEU, please ma'am." One can place little faith in a body which one minute claims to be your ally, and next minute shamelessly attacks you from your flank. It's sort of like dribbling the ball around your own defenders and scoring an inglorious own goal. Look at the colour of our jerseys, for heaven's sake. Turn the hell around and try again; do not pass Go, do not collect \$200. And when you've got a minute perhaps you could apologise. Cheers.

And then I turn on Triple J. "We regret to inform you that due to industrial action taken by the Commonwealth Public Sector Union and some bullshit Alliance that I've never heard of, we'll be broadcasting non-stop Kenny Gee and Celine Dion for your listening enjoyment." Thanks a bloody lot, mate. Why don't you just castrate me with a rusty butter knife and rinse my wounds in Dettol. "Um, excuse me Minister, I am a listener of Triple J, and although I firmly believe there is a time and place for Kenny Gee, like six foot bloody under with a gag in his mouth, I was sort of wondering if you could capitulate to the demands of the CPSU and that Alliance so that I might once again be able to listen to Angela Katerns."

(Shit, what am I saying?). Again, I am being targeted because of some grievance a union has with a particular Minister. FM104.7 were quite justified in saying "We don't take your tax payers' money and then go on strike" in a shameless yet nonetheless reasonable grab at the wandering Triple J market. And then there's education cuts. I'm not about to stand here and defend the indefensible. Education cuts must be seen as totally undesirable in any sense. But to approach the issue as though funding cuts will turn an already perfect higher education sector into something imperfect, is naive in the least.

Every opportunity must be taken at this point in time to sensibly debate the directions and future of this valued sector, and not to run off on some madcapped National Day of Action, pursuing a scare campaign founded entirely on speculation. If cuts must be made, it is important that areas of waste are identified and duly targeted. And don't tell me that the University is a model of efficiency. We all have stories of run ins with the ANU bureaucracy. In fact, I've got a friend who's been missing for 6 and half weeks after last being seen wandering into the Chancellery Annex with a fearful look on his face. Cheers,
Nick Tolley President, ANU Liberal Club

Socialist Worker Student Club



Budget Deficit? Tax the Rich

The argument for cuts to public spending put by the Liberals is that 'the nation has been living beyond its means'. Every time they get a chance, Howard and Costello trot out the line 'No one can expect to be exempt from the cuts needed to fill the budget black hole'.

Yet not everyone created the budget deficit. Working class people have not been spending more and using too many services. Welfare and real incomes have both declined under the previous Labor government.

The budget deficit is the difference between government revenue and spending. They have emerged over the last two decades and have increased. Most countries, including Japan, France, the US and Germany have them.

But the existence of deficits is not about the quality of government accounting. They are a result of governments trying to deal with the declining rates of profit for capitalists around the world. While the dollar value of profits is still colossal, the rate of profit - return compared with investment - has declined. The return that US companies can expect has fallen from 20% in the 1950s to 5-10% today.

Yet capitalism cannot escape this phenomenon. At the heart of capitalism is competition. This competition between companies leads to firms investing in more and more labour-saving machinery to get ahead. The growth in investment outstrips the growth in the labour force. But it's workers who create profits because the value they produce is far greater than the wages they get paid. So the rate of profit tends to fall.

Governments around the world have been dealing with this decline in exactly the same way. Tax concessions and other 'business welfare' measures have been handed out to companies. In Australia, the corporate tax rate was reduced from 49% to 33% by the Labor government. The decline in government revenue reflects a reduction in corporate, personal and indirect taxes. The onset of the 1990 recession and the slow recovery since have demanded more spending on social security as unemployment soared to over a million.

Put simply, the budget deficit has been the result of lowering taxes on the rich and at the same time increasing spending to deal with the effects of recession and fragile growth. But Howard refuses to consider increasing taxes for the rich although Australia's tax revenues as a percentage of GDP is the second lowest in the OECD.

If the budget black hole must be filled, then start with the fat cats. Kerry Packer's personal wealth of \$3.3 billion would be a good start. *Yet Packer pays the same amount of tax as someone who earns \$20 000 a year.* There is no reason to accept any of the budget cuts. The cuts will not improve the economy, even in their terms. They may create new problems as consumption by workers falls, and revenue declines further. The 20 000 public servants made redundant will no longer pay taxes and many will collect pensions or social security payments. *Moreover, reducing the budget deficit will not restore the profitability of the system. It is only an attempt to make workers pay for the problems created by the competition of the system itself.* We should fight every budget cut, no matter how small.

Amrita Malhi
Socialist Worker Student Club

bush week is coming...

are you ready for the challenge?

FM104.7 Crazy Call competition

To fit the Bush Week spirit the FM104.7 Morning Crew will be selecting ANU

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MURDER ON CAMPUS

indulge your secret murderous fantasies...

Enter by paying the entry fee of \$2 at the Union Office and have your mugshot taken by Rosemarie
Then from 12-2pm on Monday 19th August, come to the Bush Week stall in the Refectory to pick up a photo of your 'victim' who you must hunt down and kill by placing a red 'blood' sticker on their back.

Beware! Someone will be seeking you out too!

The aim is to collect as many photos of demolished victims as you can: once you 'kill' your victim, their target becomes your next victim and any 'kills' they have made are transferred to you. The whole campus will be transformed into a breeding ground for vengeance and treachery, but the libraries and lectures remain safe havens.

The winner will be receive a free television, and there are also five cases of beer for the runners-up.

All participants will also get credit points to their club/society or college in the running to win the kegs of beer for being the most active club or college.

entries close 11am thursday 15 august
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thanks for the mammaries

NOWSA

I have just returned from the 1996 NOWSA (Network of Women Students Australia) conference. What an experience!

The conference was strongly politically oriented at both a personal (in particular in relation to sexuality) and party level. This meant that the conference was a forum to which people came often to push individual political agendas rather than listen to others, or promote wider women's issues.

Topics that were discussed within the conference framework were those of women and feminism, women and health, sexuality and gender, women, work and education, and women and international issues. However, given the time constraint (the conference lasted only 5 days) the ability to cover any of these topics to the extent needed, by an already educated audience, was severely limited.

Another disappointing feature of the conference was that I found a lack of practical application of issues, in terms of improving women's skill levels to the extent that they could return to their campuses with the ability to establish women's groups, women's rooms or women's publica-

tions.

Despite these problems NOWSA remains an important forum not only as a meeting place (perhaps one of the very few) for women students in Australia but also as a place to discuss and organise nationally on women's issues. One issue that now has prominent place nationally on women student agendas is the push for recognition of lesbian women not only within society but also on campus and in the workplace. Another issue that is now to be addressed nationally by women students is the impact of up front fees on women in education.

Does a woman deserve an education?

No this is not a question left over from the Victorian era! In the age of snags and modern girls, women are once again fighting for the right to be educated.

Go ahead, burn those blue stockings, for just as they represent women's access to education, so it has become clear that changes in the fee structures of tertiary institutions will result in more women than men losing the ability to access an education at a tertiary level.

So how is it possible in this enlightened era that women's

education should be foregone at the cost of men's?

Studies just released from Bond University (which operates on a full fee structure) show that when full upfront fees are introduced the level of women attending tertiary institutions declines rapidly. Moreover, while overall attendance of women at Bond University is lower than that of other universi-

ties in Australia, women who do attend are concentrated in the Arts and Humanities areas. Of the undergraduate population at Bond University's Law faculty only 23% are women, whereas in the majority of other Australian universities there are more female than male undergraduate Law students.

So why such a discrepancy? Is it that in the culture of Australian

society if parents must pay for their children's education they will be more likely to educate sons than daughters?

In addition to the impact on female school leavers, the introduction of up front fees will also have a severe impact on access to education for single parents (the majority of whom are women) and mature-age women.

Is the age of bransishing bluestockings over? How are women to achieve an equal place within the work force and within society if they are not to receive equal access to education? We may not be wearing corsets but how much of the past ideology in relation to women's rights to education has really changed?

Do they think we do not want an education or is it simply that we cannot afford it and therefore do not deserve it?

Siobhan McDonnell



Women's Business

During second semester the women's office will be concentrating on issues, as opposed to running events. The two issues we will be working on are trying to get a **parenting room** on campus as well as improving situations of sexual harassment at university. If you want to get involved, get active, or have an issue of your own you want the women's office to look at please, pretty please, contact the women's officer Siobhan on 2492444.

Jess our wonder woman women's officer is leaving. **Boo Hoo!** (all donations for travel expenses appreciated). If there anyone out there who is interested in learning the ropes of being

women's officer (i.e. what to tug and what not to tug) now would be a good time to get involved. Please contact Siobhan on 2492444.

The women's office will be running **belly dancing** classes this semester so now is your chance to move, groove and use those hips like never before. For more information contact the students association on 2492444.

Finally, due to the success of the **women's rock climbing night** held in bluestocking week the women's office will be running more women's rock climbing nights in the future. Stay tuned for more news. Same Bat time. Same Bat channel.

it's easy being green

Environment Officers' Report

Term 2 was a very busy one on the campus environmental front, with a very successful campaign to encourage the university to have an environmental audit and develop an environment policy, and a number of other developments, including:

Naturally Connected

The new environmental club on campus, formed at the beginning of the year, already has over 80 members. They are a group of dedicated (but fun!) people with a common concern about the environment. They have weekly meetings and have already done a lot of very impressive stuff. If you are at all interested in environmental issues, I would encourage you to join (membership is free) and be kept up-to-date on their e-mail list. Also check out their Home page on the Web.

Environment Policy Campaign

The primary achievement in first Semester was a campaign, organised by Naturally Connected, to encourage the university to develop an environment policy. The aim was to raise student awareness of the environmental impacts we have as an institution and the workings of the university administration, especially the Environmental Audit Committee.

The campaign built in momentum over several weeks, with lots of letters (written on paper already used on one side) from students sent to University Council members, a short video, bringing attention to the university's resource use, and asking for students to support the university in implementing an Environment Policy, shown in over 100 lectures over three days.

The campaign culminated on World Environment Day, with hundreds of students drawing their hands in chalk to show their support for an Environment Policy, and a rally where people such as Kerry Tucker - AGT Greens MLA; Bob McMullan and Annette Ellis - Federal MHRs, and Professor Deane Terrell spoke in support of the idea.

The concept is now very much on the university agenda, and was discussed at length in the last Council meeting. Ben Reese is involved in preparing a draft policy, and we are seeking student input - so if you have any suggestions, please drop them into the suggestions box in the Students' Association. We will keep you posted in the coming months as to how it is all progressing through the university machinery.

Students & Sustainability Conference

12 students from the ANU attended the National Students and Sustainability conference earlier this month. The links to other groups and universities and experience gained from this week-long conference should be a great boost to environmental efforts at the ANU. A full report of the conference will appear in the next issue of *Woroni*.

Bike racks

We are currently talking to Facilities and Services (aka Buildings and Grounds) about getting covered bike racks in Union Court (in the passage that goes round to the back of the Union building, behind the Newsagent - where people already leave bikes but there are no racks).

Money

We still have around \$1,000 to spend over the rest of the year, so if you have any ideas on how that money should be spent, drop them into our pigeon hole in the Student's Association or e-mail us at D.Jeffery@student.anu.edu.au or breesee@netinfo.com.au.

Thanks and Farewell

Finally, thanks and farewell to Hannah Rechter and Valerie Cogan who have left the ANU (temporarily we hope) for 'greener' pastures. Both have been at the forefront of campus environmental activity over the last few years and were the driving force behind the recent Environment Policy campaign. We are greatly appreciative of their unceasing efforts and wish them the best.

David Jeffery and Ben Reese
Environment Officers

Gorillas in the Mist

Many of us have had our hearts touched by the film *Gorillas in the Mist*, which documented something of the plight of the mountain gorillas and of the work of Dian Fossey. Perhaps you wonder how the gorillas are getting on, these days.

Mountain gorillas live in the impenetrable forest of Uganda and the Virunga Volcanoes of Rwanda, Zaire, and Uganda. At present their population numbers around 650.

Mountain gorillas live in social groups of about ten individuals, with a mature silverback male as the focus. He is responsible for the care and protection of the group, which he achieves through decisions such as where to find the best food and how to get it with minimal energy expenditure and

how to minimize exposure to cold whilst maximizing access to nutritious plants, and by shielding the group should it be threatened. Under threat, he will display and even charge, allowing the females and young to fade into the forest to safety.

Female mountain gorillas living together are usually unrelated, group cohesion coming from the bond of each to the silverback. Death of the silverback therefore has extremely serious consequences for the group. Either each female must attempt to join another group, or a new silverback will take over the existing group and kill the infants (facilitating earlier onset of oestrus in their mothers and earlier subsequent birth of his own offspring).

In 1981, only 250 mountain

gorillas remained. The work of Dian Fossey and others gave the gorillas ten poaching-free years, during which time their numbers increased. Important in financing the gorillas' protection was a tourist industry newly recognizing the importance of the gorillas' presence. Destruction of that tourist industry by the war in Rwanda unfortunately allowed poachers to resume their activities.

In response, the International Gorilla Conservation Program has organized to guard and protect the gorillas 24 hours a day, employing six anti-poaching patrols, each with six men. The men on these patrols care for the gorillas at considerable personal risk, contending not only with land mines in the volcanoes but also with Hutu rebels in training in the forests with

automatic weapons. Yet since the inception of patrols, no gorilla has been lost to unnatural causes. Salary and food for one man per day costs \$15.00. This is not a huge cost in Australian terms, but it translates into survival for these creatures, marvellous and precious and sadly endangered.

The Mountain Gorilla Survival Appeal is an Australian not-for-profit organization established to raise funds to help finance the fight against poaching by supporting the efforts of the International Gorilla Conservation Program, whose coalition partners include the African Wildlife Foundation, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Flora and Fauna International. All money raised is directly used to fund and equip park guards in Zaire, Uganda, and Rwanda. All

people undertaking work on behalf of the Mountain Gorilla Survival Appeal are voluntary, ensuring that 100% of funding goes directly to gorilla protection.

On Friday September 6th, there will be a Gorillas in the Mist hot breakfast and piano recital in the Great Hall at University House, Balmain Crescent, from 7 to 8:30am. The morning promises to be enlightening and entertaining, and all monies will go directly to the anti-poaching patrols, making a difference to our endangered relatives. Tickets are available on campus at the Drill Hall Gallery, and cost \$20.00. So come and enjoy yourself with many others who care for gorillas.

For further information, call Michele on 247 3093.

navigators

"Are you tired, worn out, burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you will recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Jesus.

ANU Navigators are students on campus who want to be authentic followers of Jesus. We are friends who meet for a meal each Wednesday evening and you'll also find us in small groups studying the bible together, or having a coffee in Calyposos.

For more information call David 2934697 (a/h) or Katie 2885117.

different mums

DIFFERENT MUMS is a support and social group for lesbian mums, co-mums, partners, and kids from gay families. We offer friendly non-judgemental support and advice, as well as social activities. We aim to help people face the dual challenges of parenting, and parenting in a homophobic society. It helps to have friends in likeminded situations. We especially welcome the kids of gay families, and hope to provide a safe environment for them to share with others. Some issues are specific to all parents and kids, but some are specific to us alone.

We meet monthly, alternating between a coffee afternoon at Tilley's, and an activity planned around the kids. We also have a telephone support network, and at each meeting recent articles and interesting tidbits of the Internet are available. Our next meeting is Bumper Bowling at Woden on Saturday the 3rd August. Other events planned are a Spring Picnic, a trip to Corin forest, and a Christmas BBQ. Phone Kerrie and Digby (2588040 or mobile 041 2020717) or Heather and Colleen (2473637) for info or just a chat.

clubs and societies

Physiotherapy at the ANU Health Service

From July 1, 1996, the previously
free physiotherapy for ANU Students
will cost \$5.00 per treatment.
Payment is to be made at the time of
each treatment.

champagne charlie

Cappuccino Coups

Most student politicians are a frighteningly sober lot. They are seldom found in the bar, always found in The Gods or Sullivans, the ones who plan on getting ahead, that is. Coffee is the fuel of student politics: political stunts and conspiracies may have the acid tang of a short black, or the softer, milkier deceptiveness of the latte. Over coffee one can huddle, and crouch and scheme, while the more bibulous of us know that the foaming ale or finer wines relaxes the tongue and releases truth - the fundamental enemy of all that is political.

This grotesque aversion to alcohol, and therefore truth, in student politics is symbolised by the position of the Student's Association over the bar, I mean over and above! Who do these people think they are? Earlier in the year meetings were closed down by the hint of a beer stack, the true essence of an open,

fruitful unrestrained and full on democracy free from the piffing pretensions of the prohibitionists. What is to be done? Take direct action, buy your student politician a drink, if fact buy them, several and then pretend you're at a bucks' night. What could be more liberating of the Students' Association policy directions than to have several prominent figures from within its walls chained naked to bike racks on a cold autumn morning! Or better yet, broaden their horizons and let them see the world: drink them under the table (their lily white livers should make this a doddle) and then pack 'em in a Comet box and ship them to Brisbane. Nudity in these circumstances is optional, but stripping them of all money and identification is a must. Such a threat could only expand the nature of our student democracy, by forcing Student politicians out of the dens in which they

concoct their cappuccino coups against one another in the name of pathetic power-plays, and back among the people, in the open licentious honesty to be found in the bar on a jazz and jugs night. Our message to the caffeine-fueled Machiavellians should be: "Lean back, relax and get a few down!" For those of who are in the political game more by accident than design, rest assured that we are already with you - hiding from politics in the bar. And should you see my mildly tipsy self in a sober place of coffee sippers, rest assured that my seemingly innocent flat white is in fact a short black, with a dash of Frangelico and cream. So to increase honest in student politics, buy a politician a drink (preferably starting with me) and remember as we dance in the dawn of a new bacchanalian golden age of politics, *in vino veritas* ...

Champagne Charlie

out on a limb

Free will is a Judeo-Christian myth. Have you ever noticed how, after a couple of morning classes you walk past the Uni bakery and immediately get a craving for donuts, or how ads on TV make you hungry or thirsty? Have you ever noticed how people who are very religious, might have very religious parents? Girls go for guys who remind them of their fathers and guys go for girls who look like Claudia Schiffer. We are, each and every one of us, every day assailed by little tugs, pin-pricks and scratches which influence our actions. I would argue that for various reasons every decision we make is, if not predetermined, a representation of the influences so far absorbed by our personalities. Every decision. Whether it concerns your religion or which eating utensil you pick up first, to ask "Who am I?", is like asking "How was I made?". And how were we made? Well it starts from when a daddy loves a mummy very much, and travels along a course until we die. Some microbiologists will tell you that your sexual preference, your state of mind, temper not to mention physical looks are all largely influenced by your genes (and therefore your mummy and daddy). In fact after some conversations I've had with genetics students, I wonder if they've already adopted a selective breeding programme to tide them over until they are able to genetically engineer the characteristics and features of their offspring. So it could be that if you are homosexual, violent, stupid or ugly you can blame some of it on your folks. But what the hell, why stop there? Most of us spend fifteen or more years with our biological parents. We don't simply inherit chunks of their DNA, we inherit their socio-economic standing, their accents, their tastes in food, politics and sport, and even their mannerisms. Blame it all on your folks! That stupid laugh you have, the fact that you supported Balmain since you were a kid, just 'cause Dad did, and now they suck, that you have a taste for Tooheys Red, when everyone else you know drinks Guinness.

And so it goes on. Blame your friends for last Saturday's trip to the Private Bin. Blame the media because you voted for Little Johnny Jack-Boot, blame advertising for the Big Mac you ate, blame Doom2 for shooting up thirty-odd people at a historic tourist site. Well it doesn't work like that. Actually it might. If anyone does, or has ever successfully used the "I saw it on TV" argument to defend a vehicle theft, a break and enter, or gangland violence, I'd love to hear from you, and I welcome people to try it, next time they have a compulsory visit to court. Fuck, if it doesn't work, blame me. However you can go fuck yourself, because I hold that it doesn't work like that. For two reasons. Firstly because our society, perhaps incorrectly, holds each individual to be responsible for his or her actions. Temporary insanity the exception, every judge will hold a perpetrator liable to a "proven" incident. You can't just say, "Well the chance recalibration of a flow of electrons in Sirius Minor affected the movement of electrons in my brain and caused me to blow up a post office", even if it's true.

The second reason why it doesn't work like that requires a bit more pontificating on my part. As I said earlier, this process of change and manipulation starts within us from conception and continues until we die. However any lack of free-will is not a given, permanent situation. While we are each just drops in a raging river of genetics, tradition and society, and although our handedness, political sway and ability to eat hot foods are not determined by ourselves we need not spend every moment heading in a path which we cannot choose. Sadly most of us do, and most of us will. It's hard for me to write all this because I don't think I've ever had an original thought or action in my life, so it's not like I'm some self-actualised guru. However I like to think that it's within all of us to somehow determine who we are. We can always change, until we die. Death seems to me to be pretty much permanent-like. Usually this might mean we are all open to manipulation, but it can mean that we can still break all our conditioning and do just one thing on our own. A moment of clarity. Eric Cantona losing it as one dickhead of a spectator rushes down 11 rows of seat to call him a stupid French wanker, or something similar. Rosa Parkes deciding she didn't want to stand up on today's bus ride. (And my favourite) Jarvis Cocker from the band Pulp leaping up on the stage and harassing black-white-man-boy Michael Jackson at the Brit awards. Sometimes there's no reason and no thought. No time to be influenced. Something says react, and so we do. "Reaction" implies an initial stimulus, or in other words some type of influence. But every now and then, maybe we might get a reaction from nothing. Break the habit, or the ritual for absolutely no reason at all. Why do we colour our hair? Vanity? A conversation typical to my day would have me replying "because I felt like it." If that is truly the case even once in my life, that I can say "because I felt like it," then I'll croak happy.

Tree-Frog

the other side

Creative Sunday Nights...

You've gotta love Sunday nights. Without a doubt they are the most eventful of all the nights when influenced by a majestic and dangerously inspiring full moon. I'm sure it has something to do with a clash between the cosmology of Athena Starwoman and a conventional Christian God feeling much abused and neglected. Anyway, substantially lunar Sunday nights can be at the pinnacle of creative achievement. And creativeness is what it's all about, so sit back, imbibe your various chemicals and read, for here comes a litany of Sunday night havoc.

It all began when I played truly shitful basketball at some team trials that I actually thought (before the event) meant something to me. I left after half an hour because I was playing like a rhinoceros (not known for their skill at basketball) with distemper, and as I sauntered from the stadium I realised that I really didn't give a disembowelled groundhog anyway. So I drove home, cursing the fact that I'm a perpetual quitter, and listening to Ride's Going Blank Again at ear shattering volume. The police 'Accident investigation' vehicle that flagged me down as I fanged along Belconnen Way at 140 kph was suckered in by my feign to the side of the road, and a judicious loosing of spikes and oil left him in the scrub with expensive tyre and panel damage. The fucker didn't even get my number plate - covered in mud, y' know. So I screwed them over and, buoyed by my triumph, decided to get totally shit-faced. Thus began the action.

For Christmas last year I got a blender. Funnily enough, I had actually asked for one. When it was presented to me it turned out to be one of those killer appliances with a lawn mower engine on the back and four speeds - blend, mulch, screw over and extract confession from, and completely obliterate. I'm talking one significantly high powered blender here - would you believe I need a licence for it, and the damn thing's listed as a Dangerous Weapon? Anyway, I used it on this fateful full-mooned Sunday night to make me some margaritas. The best Goddamn margaritas I've ever had. Call me a sacrilegious Demon-child for using a Biblical metaphor and I drink your abuse because maybe I am, but never have tequila, triple sec and lime juice formed such a trinity - these margaritas were to die for. Anyway, 15 of these things got me well and totally out of my tree, and after consulting the comparative boredom of the Spanish Grand-Prix (Formula 1 drivers have to be the most egoistical, shit-boring example of the living human species, not to mention the tedium of their sport), I decided to embark upon a journey to The Casino, and oh does it deserve its capitals!

Prior to departure, I seconded a trusty assistant in the retiring Kurdish peasant Penfoldich who proved to be a saviour whenever my drink ran out at the roulette table - an asset during any extended gambling and drinking binge. So Penfoldich and I wandered the tables, double rums on the rocks in hand (and when empty soon to be replaced by freshers from Penfoldich), breaking hearts and acquiring vast amounts of dirty cash. Penfoldich continually commented on the excellence of our adventure, and I continually sent him to the bar for more nasty liquor. Nearing the end of our stay he had become a drinks waiter of lofty esteem, almost of the standard demanded by the 'Get those drinks here. Hell-fast or we'll lynch you' bar in Atlantic City. I informed him that he could make good tips there, but he remained steadfastly loyal to me and uninterested in any overseas venture.

Eventually The Casino felt it time to eject Penfoldich and myself from the premises. After a quick Caesar Salad negotiated from the chef's loving hands by a Gloe 9mm in mine, Penfoldich and I thanked the Casino staff for the latitude of their accommodation and left the joint with a Blackjack gaming table replete with full complement of gambling chips (on my shoulder), and a dealer bound up like a suckling pig (on Penfoldich's shoulder). We also absconded with two bottles of butter-scotch schnapps and unfortunately proceeded to get totally hallucinogenically deranged on the alcohol overload in a nearby park, completely neglecting the Blackjack table, chips and dealer. We ended up walking away with massive, mellow, all-body hangovers, a twisted grip on reality and about \$30 each, but we could have made our fortunes and been in Brazil before any questions were asked. What fools we were. I believe the dealer and chips went to Lower Surinam and acquired a monopoly on Passion-Pop importation. They love that crap over there and he ended up with millions. We could have considered ourselves liberators of the proletariat but just felt cheated.

Anyway, it didn't matter in the short term because a fight on the way home restored a bit of zest to the night. I'm sure the fuckers had been watching us make our \$60 in the Casino and wanted a piece of the action, but decided to delay their challenge until the pavement in front of the Bin. Penfoldich, always of great utility in a brawl, left me to our three assailants so as to collect toilet paper for the inevitable bloody noses that would result. Always thinking, really on the ball that boy! Unfortunately I was the only one to end up with a bloody nose... the damage proved to be negligible however, and Penfoldich's arrival on the scene wrapped in white strips and looking very much like something from an Egyptian tomb sent our assailants packing, and without our \$60. More power to us.

By this time it was almost light and the hour for heathens to be indoors, so Penfoldich and I legged it for home. We chanced upon a slow-moving bread truck along the way and managed to lift a few loaves and some croissants for breakfast as it passed - a delicate but necessary operation given the munchie onset that always accompanies dawn. Safely in our dark abode, Penfoldich and I were suitably smug about another entertaining full-moon Sabbath to add to our collection. Not another for too many months, but we were satisfied.

Destructive Chaos? Check. Luscious Hedonism? Check. Monumental Profit? Not so much, but there never is. Maybe next time...

Mista Wolfe

campus culture

Students' Library Queries

RECALLS
1. When I borrow a book and only had it for a few days I then receive a letter saying the books has been recalled and if I don't get it back in time I am fined. Isn't there at least a minimum period for which I can have the book before it is recalled? Yes, there is a minimum loan period of seven days for items other than 2-hour or 2-day loans, even if the item is recalled by another borrower.

In order to allow equitable access to material in demand, any registered library borrower is able to place a reservation (hold) on any item out on loan. When a reservation has been placed, the current borrower is notified of the new due date by which the item has to be returned (this is seven days after the reservation was placed). If the recalled material is not returned by this new due date, fines will accrue at the rate of \$2.00 per day.

While the Library appreciates the concern of users who have books recalled, it has a responsibility to all borrowers to facilitate access to required material.

2. Is it true that post-graduate and PhD students can have an unlimited borrowing time of books while the undergrads are subject to this book call-back situation? ANU staff and post-graduate students are able to borrow a maximum total of 35 items for loan at any one time for a loan period of 26 weeks for books and one week for bound serials. Items on loan can be recalled at any time, so that even if a book was not due back for another 3 months, the new due date of seven

days after the date the recall was placed would apply. If the item is not returned by the required date the same fines and penalties apply to this group of borrowers as for undergraduate students

COURSE LISTS
3. Often the books University Departments list in their course guides can never be found in the library at all, as they are usually borrowed all the time. Why isn't there more communication between departments and the library to provide multiple copies of these books, as 2 hour loans are often not sufficient for some assignments? Lecturers provide details of the number of students enrolled in a course and nominate whether items are to be placed in the appropriate Reserve Collection on 2 day or 2 hour loan. These factors are taken into account together with statistical data on the previous usage of course material when lecturers and library staff evaluate the number of copies required to meet demand.

Items on loan are recalled from borrowers as lecturers' course lists are processed and Reserve requirements take precedence over any other reservations. In addition to course related material being placed on Reserve by lecturers, any item which has more than 5 reservations placed on it is automatically transferred into the appropriate Reserve Collection. These policies are aimed at ensuring that course related material and items in high demand are placed into Reserve as quickly as possible. Lecturers are informed when requested items are unavailable.

able, i.e. missing or not held at the ANU so that appropriate action can be taken to ensure that students are not disadvantaged. Effective communication between the Library and the University's teaching and research community is one of the Library's main priorities.

4. Some students frequently go to the National Library rather than the ANU Library, just because the books they want are there, or they can reserve the book for the next day, as opposed to waiting for a book to be recalled. What steps are being taken to bring students back to the ANU? Whereas the National Library is a closed collection and material cannot be borrowed, the ANU Library provides lending services intended to meet the needs of ANU staff and students. The ANU Library's policies are therefore aimed at ensuring equitable access to required items. ANU Library users have indicated that a minimum loan period for recalled items is necessary to allow reasonable access. Materials in high demand are placed in the appropriate Reserve Collection for a reduced loan period of 2 hours or 2 days. This policy minimises delays in accessing course related material. Any member of the Australian National University can propose items for purchase if they feel that there are gaps in the collection. Proposal forms are available at the Information Desks and users are encouraged to submit these to Information Advisers as necessary.

Thanks to Colin Steele

Got any questions about AUSTUDY?

Have a problem with AUSTUDY?

Drop into our offices on campus:

ANU Students' Association,

Monday and Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm.

Or drop into our office located at

Upper level, Coolamon Court, Weston ACT, ph: 1800

040 931

president's report

Successes

The period of May 27 to July 12 has been magnificently successful for the Students' Association. We have achieved three things of lasting value:

1- Supplementary exams were introduced by the Board of Faculties of May 31 after intense lobbying by the Students' Association and other student members of the Board. This is a truly historic agreement which surprised everyone. If you fail a compulsory exam and fail your unit as a result, you will automatically have another chance. If you pass the supplementary exam then you will pass the unit overall. You must, however, be sitting on a 50 average or higher before sitting the final exam and your final result in the unit must be equal to or above 45. This change will mean a huge reduction in student stress.

2- The University has, at our request, agreed to guarantee bank loans for full-time graduate students required to pay up front fees for study. These students will only begin to pay their fees after graduation, just as HECS liable students do. This has always been considered too difficult but due to our skillful negotiation the University has taken this significant step to improve access to graduate courses.

A powerful precedent has been established. Whenever the ANU extends fees to a new course it will be obliged to provide a loans scheme to fee-paying full time students, as it could not possibly justify giving loans to some students but not to others. In addition, the scheme is in one sense more generous than HECS because bursaries will be provided to students having difficulty making repayments. Under HECS, some students go through life

without ever fully repaying their debt. Under the University's scheme, these students will mostly have their loans paid off by the University.

Avid readers of my report will recall the last time I mentioned Graduate Tuition Fees. The Faculties' Resources Committee was proposing the extension of graduate tuition fees to full-time students in a large range of courses, and I rated our chances of stopping this at next to nothing. However, I gave it a try and almost succeeded, writing a 4000 word paper and personally visiting 10 out of 14 members of the University Council able to vote at the meeting at which the issue was decided (the other four were on side or unavailable). The effect of this is that full time students in only seven new courses will be charged fees. This is, on reflection, a good result, because the loans scheme for these courses sets a precedent which will totally reorder the graduate tuition fees debate well into the future.

3- The Students' Association organised an extremely successful protest against the Federal Government's proposed cuts to the University's funding. From May 17 to May 30, we spent eight hours a day outside Parliament House reading out the Coalition's election policy on higher education, the policy included promises to maintain funding to Universities and AUSTUDY, as well as increase funding for research and postgraduate scholarships. None of these promises seem likely to be kept, so we sought to publicize them to the voting public as much as we could. On the Thursday we re-launched the Policy with banners, music etc., and Kim Beazley and Natasha Stott Despoja came to

speak to the crowd afterwards.

The success of the protest was in the extensive media coverage it received. We made, I think, a huge contribution towards reminding the Coalition of their promises. I am told by someone who spoke to John Howard that he was aware of the demonstration and any MP who listens to the radio will have heard about it.

On July 4 I met with one of Amanda Vanstone's advisers and pushed the same themes. She agreed with much of what I had said but kept saying that it paled into insignificance when compared with the task of balancing the Commonwealth Budget. She also assured me that Senator Vanstone was a fearsome advocate for Higher Education in the Cabinet Room. If that's the case, it's a shame she keeps losing.

On the same issue, I and other students had

an unexpected meeting with the Prime Minister when he came to the ANU in May to deliver a lecture on reshaping Australian institutions. The idiotic campus Marxists performed their usual tricks for the cameras and chanted their inane slogans, drowning out Howard for most of his speech. It was a shame that this spectacle distracted the media from the question time at the end, in which Howard refused to answer any questions to our satisfaction. It was beneficial in the sense that he seemed to respect the strength of feeling displayed by the students who spoke to him (as opposed to shouted at him from the back of the theatre).

I hope to have more achievements to report next time.

William Mackerras

The General Services Fee Committee of the ANU has made available a significant sum for use by Clubs and Societies on Open day, September 14.

Clubs wishing to hold activities on September 14 should seek funding for them by applying to the Students' Association by August 2

and a handful of Crisco ...

Hepatitis Is Catching On!

There was a report in *The Canberra Times* this week advising that there have been recent outbreaks of hepatitis A in the community. Hepatitis C is also on the increase, so with that news in mind, I thought it might be useful to go over the ways in which hepatitis can be transmitted.

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. Your liver can become inflamed for a variety of reasons. There are viral and non-viral forms of hepatitis. Non-viral forms of hepatitis can be caused by prolonged drinking of alcohol, binge drinking of alcohol, poor diet and/or lack of exercise.

Viral forms of hepatitis are hepatitis A, B and C. There are other viral forms of hepatitis (D and E for example) but you have to have had A or B before you can get them.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is present in the faeces (poo) of infected people. Transmission occurs through the faecal-oral route. That means that infected faeces get into the mouth of another person. If a person does not wash their hands properly with soap and warm water after going to the toilet then they can infect other people's hands and/or food. Hepatitis A can also be spread by sexual practices which involve oral-anal contact.

Basic hygiene procedures protect us from hepatitis A on a daily basis. Washing your hands after going to the toilet and before eating or preparing a meal is a must for minimising the transmission of this virus.

People who work with children need to be particularly scrupulous in maintaining excellent standards of hygiene in day care and child care centres. Wearing disposable latex gloves when dealing with soiled nappies and when cleaning contaminated surfaces will ensure the risk of transmission is minimised.

A vaccine is available for hepatitis A and consists of two injections taken 2-4 weeks apart, with a booster within 12 months. Each injection costs about \$45 and you can discuss with your doctor whether it would be appropriate for you

to have an injection.

So the ways to protect yourself from hep A are:

- Washing your hands after going to the toilet and before preparing a meal; and
- Using dams for oral-anal practices

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a relatively more infectious virus than either HIV or hepatitis C. Like HIV it is transmitted through blood, semen and vaginal fluids. In the literature I have been reading there is some confusion about whether saliva can also transmit hepatitis B. It would appear that the Hep B virus is in saliva but it seems unclear whether it is in sufficient quantity to cause infection.

Like HIV, hepatitis B can be transmitted through unprotected sex, sharing used needles and from infected mother to child. Unlike HIV, hepatitis B can survive for longer in dried blood.

The ways in which to avoid contracting hepatitis B are:

- Using condoms for safe sex; and
- Not sharing injecting equipment (including swabs, spoons, tourniquets, etc.);
- Discussing with your doctor whether it would be appropriate for you to consider being vaccinated.

Hepatitis C

The rise of hepatitis C is of particular concern. Hep C is a blood borne virus. It doesn't survive long outside the body and isn't as infectious as hep B, but its presence in the population is growing.

Since 1990 all blood donations have been tested for hepatitis C. So acquiring hep C via blood transfusions before 1990 was possible. Currently it does not seem that hep C is spread sexually. There may be some possibility of sexual transmission where one parent has acute hep C infection.

The most common means of hep C transmission is via sharing of injecting equipment and associated paraphernalia such as spoons, swabs, tourniquets etc. There is no vaccination against hep C so precautions must be taken at all times.

This means:

- Using condoms for safe sex; and
- Not sharing injecting equipment (including swabs, spoons, tourniquets, etc.); and
- Not sharing toothbrushes or razors.

If you want further information on any of the

information presented here, please give me a call on 249 3604 or email me at Stephen.Lawton@anu.edu.au. You can also contact the health centre on your campus for more information and advice.

Stephen Lawton
Campus HIV/AIDS Educator

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entries should be lodged with:

Stephen Lawton, Campus HIV/AIDS Educator, H Block, Old Administration
Area, ANU, Canberra, ACT, 0200

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ELECTIONS 1996

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are hereby called for election to the following offices and positions within The Australian National University Students' Association:

President of the Association
Treasurer of the Association
General Secretary of the Association
The Chair of the Clubs and Societies Committee
Ten (10) General Representatives to the SRC
Three (3) Arts Representatives to the SRC
Two (2) Science Representatives to the SRC
Two (2) Economics/Commerce Representatives to the SRC
One (1) Law Representative to the SRC
One (1) Asian Studies Representative to the SRC
One (1) Engineering/Information Technology Representative to the SRC
One (1) Part-time Students' Representative to the SRC
Editor (or Editorial team) of *Woroni*

The successful candidates will serve for one year from 1 December 1996.

All ordinary members of the Association are eligible to nominate, second or be nominated for the positions of President, Treasurer, General Secretary, Editor(s) of *Woroni*, and General Representative to the SRC. The candidate, nominator and seconder for a position of Faculty Representative must all be enrolled in the relevant Faculty. Only part-time students are eligible to nominate, second or be nominated for the position of Part-Time Representative.

The period for lodgement of nominations will commence at 9.30 am on Monday 22 July 1996 and cease at 3.30 pm on Monday 12 August 1996.

All nominations should be placed in the locked ballot box provided in the offices of the Association, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm on any week day during the period in which nominations are open.

All nomination forms must include the signature of the nominator, a seconder, and the nominee. Nomination forms are available from the Association's Office.

Candidates in the election may indicate to the Returning Officer the group or team with which they are running, or that they are running as an independent, which will then appear on the voting paper beside their names.

TIMES AND PLACES OF VOTING

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 1996 TO FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1996

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

11.00 am - 1.00 pm ITA Shop/Coffee Courtyard
1.30 pm - 6.30 pm University Union

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

11.00 am - 4.00 pm University Union
4.30 pm - 7.30 pm Chifley Library Entrance

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

11.00 am - 4.00 pm University Union

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

11.00 am - 4.00 pm University Union

Counting of votes will commence at 9:30 am
on Monday 23 September 1996 in Melville Hall.

R H ARTHUR
REGISTRAR AND RETURNING OFFICER
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
16 JULY 1996

Keep Howard honest?! Get Real

It's not difficult to hate John Howard and everything he represents. In the last days of exams this particularly vicious representative of the Australian ruling class even ventured on to the ANU to deliver a lecture 'Reshaping Australian Institutions'.

Thankfully about 150 people were outside picketing the building, many then proceeding to severely disrupt the lecture. Howard was appalling. His whole speech was stinking hypocrisy. He waxed on about the deep democratic traditions of 'Australian society', which, he added, the Liberal Party sought to maintain. Demonstrators pointed out that 'Australian society' was founded upon the genocidal dispossession of aborigines, and kills them at a greater rate than blacks were killed under the South African apartheid regime. "Please, let the speaker continue."

It was pointed out to him that 80 per cent of people polled oppose his government's planned cuts to university funding, 60 per cent oppose the sale of Telstra and 60 per cent prefer land rights for Aboriginal people before mining profits and uranium mining. "You've made your point now, please wait for the questions at the end."

He spoke ceaselessly about freedom of choice and individual liberty, that is unless you belong to trade or student union. "Really I expected better behaviour at a University".

It's no surprise that our very own Vice-Chancellor Dean Terrell, a nasty piece of work in his own right, appeared to have no idea how to handle the situation.

Indeed I haven't had the pleasure of seeing him sweat so much since the time hundreds of students occupied his administration building against up-front fees in 1994.

The only other person that appeared to be losing their cool was William Mackerras, President of the ANU Students Association, and member of the Labor Right (soon to join the Liberal Party?) He was so desperate to let Howard speak that he even threatened to cut off funding to the Education Action Group which has been leading the fight against the Libs' education cuts on this campus. Later he spoke in support of students paying more up-front towards the cost of their education. The next day he did interviews with the press slandering the picketers.

Fortunately most students, and indeed most workers do not share their 'leaders' bankrupt outlook in accepting 'user-pays', privatisation, restructuring and so on.

The Socialist Worker Student Club absolutely defends the picket. As Howard and his ilk have a complete monopoly on the mass media we will continue to deny him a platform at the ANU as he would be denied a platform by students at any other campus, or by workers on any waterfront, construction site or public service building.

Howard can be stopped. But he won't be stopped by 'community campaigns' designed to lobby the Senate as Labor leaders and most trade union officials so vainly hope. Public opinion is already on our side.

The Libs are determined to push through the cuts to maintain the standard of welfare for the bosses and the rich - currently the wealthiest 200 Australians, including Kerry Packer on \$3.6 billion, each have taxable incomes of less than \$20 000. At the end of the day Labor and the Democrats respect the Libs' 'right to govern' and will pass anti-worker legislation and budget cuts with only minor amendments.

The only thing that will stop them is mass action from below. When rulers in France last December tried to make workers pay for the 'budget deficit' they were beaten back by a mass strike movement which saw Paris paralysed for three weeks and millions of people take to the streets.

There is no reason why that couldn't happen here. Already Construction workers, Maritime workers, public servants, university staff, ABC staff and students have struck and demonstrated. The task now is to unite that fight. The ACTU has called a cavalcade to Canberra on August 19, the day before the budget, but its strategy of lobbying the Senate, rather than leading mass strike action will be a disaster for workers and students.

Students might not be able to stop Australian bosses profits, but through militant mass actions, like occupying campus administrations, we can help create serious political crises for the government. In that context other sections of workers could force their leaders to lead the sort of fight that can stop the Liberals dead.

Luke Deer

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS- 1997

One Rhodes Scholarship tenable at the University of Oxford is offered for award in each State each year. Three additional scholarships are awarded by the Australia at Large Selection Committee in early December.

Candidates resident or educated in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) or the Northern Territory (NT) may apply to a selection committee in a State in which they have been previously resident or received a substantial part of their education.

Such candidates will also be considered for nomination for the Scholarships for Australia at Large. Candidates wishing to be considered by a State selection committee must apply to the secretary of that committee.

Candidates must be of an age that they will have passed their eighteenth and not reached their twenty-fifth birthday by 1 October 1996.

ACT and NT candidates wishing to make direct application for the Rhodes Scholarships for Australia at Large should apply to the Honorary Secretary, Rhodes Scholarships for Australia at Large, GPO Box 2879 CANBERRA ACT 2600 by 2 September 1996. Further information is available from the Registrar's Office, The Australian National University, or by telephoning (06) 249-3801.

With training wheels down the Superhighway

This column must begin, as it seems too many of these columns do, with a confession:

I was a nerd.

No, worse than that, to lay the blackest reaches of my soul truly bare, to streak, metaphorically, across the ANU's student consciousness, dangle bits wobbling, I must proclaim further:

I was a computer nerd.

For a long time, I admit, I kept my dark past concealed. I kept my computer magazines hidden away, at the back of my cupboard, beneath my grubby mattress. But no longer. Now I can confess it cleanly, without shame or guilt, for I have recently purchased a new computer, and in doing so have purged myself of the anguish I had always associated with those malevolent grey machines.

Actually, the computer I eventually purchased was not new but most decidedly second-hand. It was, as the ad coyly proclaimed, a Macintosh with, er, character. That character came in the form of a screen the size of a small drive-in movie theatre. But owning a computer once again has taken me back to the heady days of my youth, when I watched the development of the PC even as I experienced my own. Think about it. We are the last generation to be able to recall a time before there were computers — my brother has been brought up attached to his control pad like it is his umbilical cord.

I was a computer nerd when being a computer nerd really meant something — not just slumping in front of your Nintendo and blowing away your random re-animated rotting corpse, oh no. I was the sort of computer nerd who would spend three days typing out a program in Basic only to discover it would work only on the obsolete Atari ZX 50 and anyway, all it would do is bounce a suspiciously square-shaped 'ball' on the screen while emitting a series of rather forlorn beeping sounds.

In those days if you wanted to play games you would have to go down to the chemist (this was before computer stores) and get a *Game and Watch*. Do you remember those? The little square-shaped LCD displays powered by two watch batteries? I had *Snoopy Tennis* and I used to play for hours. Those simple games could somehow create an atmosphere of tension that was palpable — it's difficult to describe how claustrophobic you could feel while controlling that little diver in *Octopus*, or the sense of dismay which filled you as he thrashed helplessly in the octopus' tentacles. And didn't you feel just a little guilty about making Mario in *Donkey Kong* jump onto that crane, always at the last minute, while Kong remained frozen in that pose of towering primal rage, enjoying a brief moment of noble stillness before tumbling like a fallen angel to the steely girders beneath. It was kind of sad, when you think of it.

Then came the Commodore 64. The computer nerd's epiphany. But as much pleasure as I derived from my Commodore 64 (and, believe me, those were happy times) there was always someone who had something better. Just when I got *International Karate* there would be someone who had *Defender of the Crown*. *Defender of the Crown* was a bit of an elite game, actually, because you could only get it on disk. That meant my trusty tape player, which took 80 minutes to load *Crocodile Maths* for god's sake, was useless. And by the time I got the elusive disk drive, the kid around the corner had his Amiga. We persuaded my father to buy an IBM. But you couldn't have a joystick on the IBM — you could always tell the IBM kids by their remarkable ability to contort their fingers across the keys, and their amazing skill on flight simulators and tax programs.

Fundamentally, however, it always came back to the games. My friends and I used to loiter around newsagents, checking out the computer magazines, guiltily ogling the *Dragon's Lair* centrefold (pwooar — shudder). The shop assistants would always watch us suspiciously — the computer magazines were invariably (I found quite curious at the time) located right next to the, er, adult section, but the dumb thing was that we actually read the computer magazines, while *Chicks with Guns* lay embarrassingly unpawed.

So now I am a Mac owner. That's a big thing to a computer person, especially when you've owned an IBM in the past. It's kind of like a religious conversion — I worry about the Fatwa Bill Gates is sure to impose, although I have been lapsed for some time. Nevertheless, I should have known the great god was going to punish me when I saw the size of the screen I was shortly to own. I should have known that there was no way, for the price at which it was advertised, that computer could have worked. If I have learned three things in my short but tumultuous life they are these: that the cheque is never in the mail; that you should never push the red button; and that the price that's too good to be true is *always* too good to be true.

When I was reliably told, therefore, by sympathetic but useless computer-student friends that my screen was for all intents and purposes a forty kilogram paperweight, I was fatalistically unsurprised. But something within me rebelled. Somewhere, the part of me that kept typing out fatally bug-ridden programs, that persevered with *Snoopy Tennis*, that waited for my tape drive and dislocated seven fingers on my IBM, refused to acknowledge defeat. So I phoned around. I e-mailed. I surfed the Net and I found the answer. I fixed that cursed screen and I'm so damn proud of myself I want this whole university to know. As I sit here writing on my gigantic screen with my computer magazines openly displayed I'm happy — proving, I suppose, that I am still a computer nerd after all.

The Ferret

29 Woroni 25 July 1996



The Cure

Wild Mood Swings

The album *Wild Mood Swings* is the latest stage of the developmental path which the Cure began to tread with the 1992 studio album *Wish*. *Wild Mood Swings* is not another volume of classic Cure eccentricity along the lines of songs like 'A Forest', 'Lullaby', 'Boys Don't Cry' and 'Love Cats' (to take a random selection from a large back catalogue). In many respects, the new album is quite reminiscent of its predecessor, but in the office goth's judgement is rather more thoughtful. Certainly, there is no song on this album which the office goth would regard as being as commercially accessible as the single 'Friday I'm in love' from *Wish* (which was derided by many long-time Cure fans, who saw the song as evidence that Robert Smith had finally lost the plot). However, the album does seem to be receiving some radio airplay.

Fans of the Cure are a very diverse bunch (ranging from many among the paracetamol-popping goth crowd to more 'trendy' Triple-J alternative types, and others who have been exposed to the Cure's successful chart singles). This is probably partially a result of the band's long history. The office goth suspects that some will love this album while others will not be so impressed. For his money, the office goth has to admit that *Wild Mood Swings* has grown on him over the course of a few listens, and he is now quite fond of the album.

In typical Cure style, the focus of the

songs is generally on emotions rather than concrete events. The music generally has a dark outlook on issues such as relationships and the superficiality of people who dress to impress others rather than trying to engage with them on a meaningful level. Robert Smith's versatile voice and playful style ensure that the album is never stifled by its

dark tone and make it easy to listen to for all of its 61 minutes and 48 seconds.

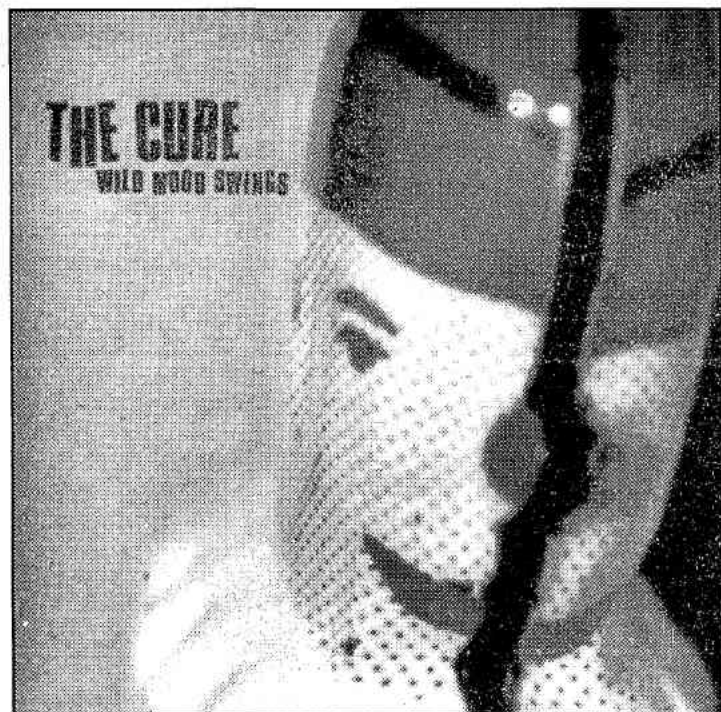
The most outstanding features of this album are its air of slow melancholy, and the fact that the songs on the disc are generally very compatible, rather than being a mixture of very different works. However, this is not to say that *Wild Mood Swings* is devoid of variety. Nothing could be further from the truth, and one need only look to the impressive array of instrumentation (including strings and brass sections) employed in different parts of the album to see this. The pace of the album is also quite varied. *Wild Mood Swings* begins in gentle measured fashion with the opening bars of 'Want', which are based around the repetition of a simple set of riffs for about a minute and a half. The second track, 'Club America' introduces a more

upbeat element to the album. However, rather than being upbeat and insubstantial, the song is still measured, and explores different levels of impressions in a relationship. From here, the album generally leans more towards the slightly upbeat than away from it, but every now and then there is a slower song (such as 'Jupiter crash' or 'Numb') as if to make it clear that the band wishes to exert absolute and careful control over the pace of the album.

Overall, *Wild Mood Swings* is a departure from the overt eccentricity of certain songs from the Cure's past, but that is by no means to say that this is an album of conventional mainstream music. Probably as a result of frontman Robert Smith's influence, this album is always clearly identifiable as an album by the Cure. Some might argue that the Cure were better in their early days. The office goth would counter by observing that while musicians like John Farnham and Jimmy Barnes may be able to forge a career by recording several albums which all sound the same, this is not a serious artistic option, especially for bands like the Cure, who have always used their unconventional sound as a trademark.

All in all, *Wild Mood Swings* comes highly recommended, but prospective buyers should be warned that this album definitely bears more resemblance to *Wish* than to the band's earlier work.

Office Goth



Ash

1977

There is an old saying in indie rock that goes something along the lines of "if you can't be good, be loud". The fact that the aphorism was created by the not good and very loud suggests that it could be somewhat inaccurate. Some contend that not goodness and very loudness works well in a live setting full of drunk punters, and a number of successful Australian bands like The Meanies (now defunct) who were very loud and not-so-good seem to reinforce the philosophy. However, the wisdom of the saying comes into question on CD where loudness is controlled by the listener, and thus goodness becomes paramount. 1977, debut album from loud Irish indie-rockers Ash, reinforces the importance of goodness on CD. No matter how much I turned it up, it always

sounded very ordinary - loud, yes, but unfortunately not very good.

Having said that, these guys are not a write-off as 1977 displays flashes of something good, maybe even better than good. The first single, Kung Fu, is catchy in an inane way and part of a recent rash of songs dedicated to Jackie Chan - a driving rhythm section and buzzing guitar hook make it a great moshing song. The latest single from the album is Goldfinger which has rightfully claimed indie chart success. Far and away the best track on 1977, it incorporates a lolling rhythm guitar and punctuated drum build-ups layered with fuzz that sounds like surf on the fade in, while the vocals are the best on the album. That just about encapsulates the highlights of the album, and you

know that's a bad thing when it only includes the singles.

The major problem with the rest of 1977 is that it is utterly boring - uninspired and uninspiring. The riffs are not catchy, the singing is thin and lame, and the drumming tame by comparison with the two singles. Most of the album is consumed by unoriginal mid-tempo buzzing guitar tracks with unremarkable solos, while the attempted ballads Gone The Dream and Oh Yeah incorporate misplaced strings in the background and are otherwise syrupy - poor copies of what Oasis, over-rated as they may be, actually do well. Ash do use a cool sample of a Tie-fighter from Star Wars to open 1977, but on the whole it goes downhill from there.

1977 by Ash is very much a part of what was once called the Manchester scene. Back in the good old days of the early 80s it was represented by a plethora of inventive bands, from The Soup Dragons to Ride, The Stone Roses to Primal Scream. Many of these bands have faded, changed in style or lost their way leaving only the big-headed Oasis and tongue-in-cheek Blur to represent what once was. Ash clearly want to become a legitimate contender in the vacuum, but they haven't with this album. However, given the promise implicit in Goldfinger they may have a future. In the interim, take a look at any Teenage Fanclub album instead - it's the same kind of music, only catchier and far more original.

Renaissance Man

Twisted Willie

Various Artists

When I looked at the title of this compilation album, I thought, here we go, its a critical evaluation of student politics at the ANU. But, as usual, I was wrong. What this CD represents is a tribute to Willie Nelson by some of the Music Industry's biggest stars. Now I know what you're thinking - FUCKING COUNTRY MUSIC! May you all be forgiven for feeling this way about one of the most boring musical genres since the Salvation Army Band's Christmas album. But hear me out. Imagine Johnny Cash singing vocals in a band made up of members of Soundgarden, Nirvana and Alice in Chains. Imagine Waylon Jennings teaming up with L7. Sound a bit unusual?

The music on this CD fits two broad categories, "interesting" and "a little bit different". The first of these two categories is made up of songs performed by band such as The Presidents of the United States of America, Tenderloin, the Reverend Horton Heat and Jello Biafra (former lead singer of the Dead Kennedys) and could probably be best described as country on speed. The effect this has on the music is to give it a boogie woogie, bluesy feel, which turns out not to sound like crap, but in fact to be very pleasant to listen to.

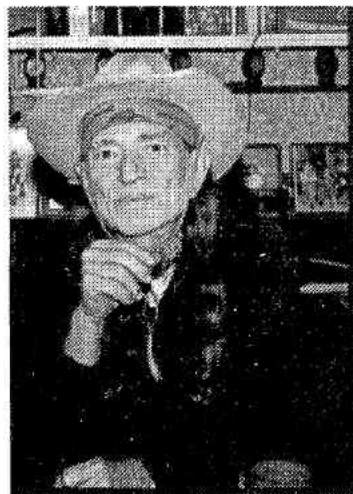
The second category is made up of the weirder efforts on this tribute album. These range from the cure for insomnia covers by

L7 and Steel Pole Bath Tub to the minimalistic discordia of Kelly Deal and Kris Kristofferson.

There are also a few tracks that retain more of their country origins than the others, these ballads provide a bit of extra diversity to an album that could already be used in a Benetton catalogue.

All in all, this album is a fascinating exploration of different interpretations of the work of a man that has inspired and influenced several different generations of musicians. Give it a listen.

Drunken Disgrace





classic crap

When on a brief trip to Africa last year, the book I chose to take with me was George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. It was a bad mistake. The power of her prose to create a world at least as real as the physical, its deep familiarity as that which has had so huge an effect upon our notion of fiction and the novel, when juxtaposed with the frightening foreignness of Africa, meant that I spent those three weeks in mid-nineteenth century provincial England, with Dorothea and Dr. Lydgate, in an almost deeper sense than I spent it among the inhabitants of the Ivory Coast. From the very first page, I was drawn into that world, which, while highly self-contained and self-concerned, draws a very large picture of life, the world, and our place in it. Eliot's characters are flesh and blood - I find myself thinking fondly of Dorothea Brooke and Maggie Tulliver more often, and in a more deeply connected way, than I do of many friends I have made and drifted from over the last twenty-one years.

The richness of Eliot's imagination means that one's time spent in *Middlemarch* and at Dorlcote Mill by St Oggs is an experience as vivid as any African adventure. *Middlemarch* is as entertaining as any book you will come across, and like all good books, entertains on that profound level where entertainment and education seem to blend to form some kind of completely gripping, revelatory experience. In the same way as travelling the world broadens an open mind and informs it, Eliot reveals to us both our world and the language with which we create it. It brings us into deeper contact with ourselves and with

life, especially that aspect of life, and the lives of others, which seem at first glance to be insignificant. As she says of Dorothea, "the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."

Reading George Eliot - both *Middlemarch* and *The Mill on the Floss* - has been one of the most enriching, educative and real experiences I have known. She teaches us, as A. S. Byatt realised, to "look long and intelligently" at that which we hate in order that we might discover its real identity, "with the necessary detachment to imagine it from within and without" - an examination which creates "a kind of knowledge that is love". I think Eliot really does teach us to love - by furnishing us with self-knowledge, with "the rapturous consciousness of life beyond self", and by showing our own magnificent language to us in one of its most inspirational forms. And by giving us the realest and most lovable friends in Dorothea and Maggie.

The songs of Cole Porter, for me, constitute the only music you can dance to, sing along with, listen to over and over again and each time find some new stroke of genius to marvel at, and which also provides as many spine-thrills as Tchaikovsky and his pals. Porter's music has been recorded by some of the best musicians of this century - from Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong and Frank

Sinatra to the artists who recorded the 'Red, Hot and Blue' album. High Society, one of Hollywood's greatest musicals, features some of his wittiest lyrics (Who Wants to be a Millionaire?), most heartrending melodies (True Love), and most intelligent rhythms (the Bing Crosby-Frank Sinatra duet Did You Ever? is sheer magic).

Sometimes I really think Porter's lyrics are the best I've ever heard. Who has ever equalled the marvellous quintuple internal rhyme in 'I Get a Kick Out of You': 'Flying too high with some guy in the sky is my idea of nothing to do?' And it's not just slick and sophisticated humour that he delivers. Was the aching agony of parting from a lover ever captured more beautifully than in 'Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye'? I fail to understand, after listening to this song, how people can regard Porter's lyrics as emotionally unconvincing. Then there are his magical tunes. The rich and exotic melodies (apparently inspired by Islamic chants encountered in Morocco) in 'Night and Day' have made this song widely regarded as Porter's greatest achievement. Ella Fitzgerald's rendition of this brilliant composition is my favourite, and it is her Porter that is the most widely listened to. Her voice is among one of the best noises any of us will ever hear, so for endless satisfaction, I recommend both volumes of Ella's "Cole Porter Songbook" wherein she delivers each of Porter's little masterpieces with sheer vocal virtuosity.

As Nora Ephron pointed out in *When Harry Met Sally*, *Casablanca* raises one of the great questions of life: should Ingrid

Bergman have boarded the plane with dull but reliable hubby, or should she have opted for a life of passion and danger with Bogie? The pragmatic/romantic dilemma is one of the oldest themes in literature and in life - we all have to play Ingrid at least once in our lives. I've seen *Casablanca* three or four times. When I was sixteen, I was horrified at what I regarded to be a flagrant disregard for universal order, a heartless betrayal of Humphrey, a disgusting defilement of all that our culture honours in the love between a man and a woman. My next viewing was some years later, having taken a couple of semesters in women's studies. Well, of course she made the right choice. A responsible, mature man - sophisticated in that exclusively continental fashion, who has noble political ideals, who respects her and who doesn't want to overwhelm and consume her with some 'grande passion' which is nothing but transferred narcissism (or something). What kind of life would she have sitting in her flat above the pub in *Casablanca*, waiting for Bogie to stumble upstairs half pissed every night?

I watched it again the other night, and now I'm not sure. I still think she was on the money with hubby, but maybe that's just because Bogie doesn't bear a sufficiently significant resemblance to Mel Gibson for me to take him seriously as a romantic prospect for Ingrid. I suggest that you all give some serious thought to the issue. You never know when your very own Bogie might turn up.

Sara Gilbert

Gary Clail Keep The Faith

While the office goth has to admit that an album probably loses goth points from the outset for having a title like *Keep the Faith*, he grabbed this album from the review pile on the strength of Gary Clail's singles of a few years ago, such as (the altogether worthwhile) 'Who pays the piper?' While such singles were identifiable by Clail's trademark vocals (enthusiastically spoken rather than sung) and cynicism, the office goth seems to recall that they were quite dancey in an electronic kind of way. *Keep the Faith* retains the vocal style and cynicism of the earlier singles, but the music is probably best described as a kind of reggae-funk: The album has been very



slickly produced, and wins a large number of points from the office goth's audiophile side for this.

When the songs on this album work, they work well. Gary Clail and his On-U Sound team have hit on a sound which combines sequencers and samples with more traditional elements of funk and reggae music. The result is often music which is very catchy and distinctive. However, the overall quality of the album is a little varied: some songs (such as 'Let's get it right', which is unfortunately the first track on the CD) arguably rely too heavily on reggae clichés. Lyrically, Clail alternates for much of the album between an unsophisticated cynicism (for example, the

words 'The beast becomes one with the calculator,' which open the song 'Privatisation program'), and an expression (for example in the title song) that while life may be tough, truth and the quest to find make it worth living (the office goth cannot help but observe how ungothic a thought this is).

The office goth's advice is that this CD is worth a listen for anyone who wants to hear an unusual twist on a funk sound and is dissatisfied with the abysmally bad and sickly sweet commercial American funk currently being promoted by the major record companies. While the album is not perfect, Gary Clail deserves credit for his originality.

Office Goth

Bleutongue Bleutongue

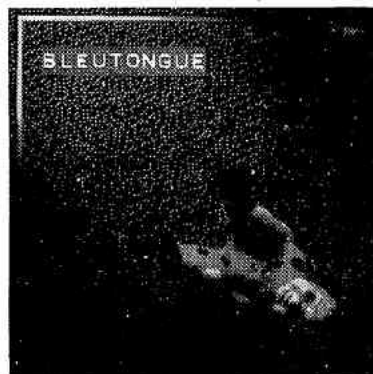
Probably the easiest way to describe the way this band's music sounds is to say it is somewhat of a cross between Pearl Jam and the Tea Party. In addition to this there are some musical elements found in bands such as Nirvana and the Red Hot Chili Peppers thrown in for good measure. The overall effect that this has is to grab the listener by the throat and shake them violently until the end of the CD. The first track, Cicciolina,

explodes with a combination of really hard-edged, uncompromising guitar riffs combined with the powerful voice of Matt Shelton. This song indeed sets the tone for the rest of the album with this musical combination being used to keep the listener focussed for the duration. Even though the songs all use the same style, there is a large amount of diversity on the album. Some songs are quite funky, in a similar style to

some of the heavier tracks on the latest Chili Peppers album, whilst others have a very grungy, bass driven feel to them.

If you like any of the above mentioned bands then I suggest that you give Bleutongue a listen as they are fresh and new and haven't suffered from the hype and overplaying of some of their compatriots.

Drunken Disgrace



Killing Joke

Democracy

The album *Democracy* marks a new (but interesting and worthwhile) direction for well-established British band Killing Joke. It follows the successful 1994 release *Pandemonium*, which was notable for the way in which its songs combined (in varying proportions) searing guitar sounds, a harsh industrial edge, and at times heavy reliance on technology to give some of the music a mild techno quality (which seemed to be favoured at the time by Killing Joke member Youth, who produces much of the band's work).

Democracy is a very different album, although the office goth suggests that the marketing people at Festival Records have not listened to the album for long enough to realise this. A sticker on the front of the CD proudly proclaims (quoting UK publication *Kerrang*) that 'Killing Joke inspired the whole industrial rock movement'. While this

may be true, the implication that *Democracy* is an industrial rock album is almost wholly without basis. Unlike the previous album, which was musically very powerful and sometimes harsh, *Democracy* is almost mellow in tone. For the most part, it is characterised by a more stripped back sound than the previous album. However, there is still a great deal of musical variety: while some songs (for example, 'Pilgrimage') are marked by the use of an acoustic guitar alongside amplified



instruments, others (such as 'Intellect' and 'Medicine Wheel') are memorable for their unique combination of rock and techno elements (probably due to Youth's production influence).

While the music itself is somewhat more restrained on this album than it was on *Pandemonium*, this is not to suggest that Killing Joke have sold out and joined the corporate machine after a long and successful career — far from it. In fact, the band is as cynical and venomous as ever on *Democracy*. The title of the album sets the listener up for a tour of the entrenched and all-too-often unquestioned values

of western democratic society. Targets include the adherence of many to unproven economic theories, stress, personality cults in modern politics, and the way in which modern society can destroy the individual and then use pharmaceutical drugs like Prozac as a poor band-aid remedy. As the album progresses, the lyrics identify these values and hammer them mercilessly; and refer to an utopian alternate world, where none of these concerns exist.

All in all, *Democracy* is well worth a listen. It will not appeal to everyone (lacking as it does the vacuous appeal of the Celine Dions and Toni Pearens of our commercial world), but may well be worth a listen if you are after an unusual and varied rock sound. *Democracy* comes with the office goth's hearty recommendation.

Office Goth



The Spinanes

Strand

The second album from this Oregon duo is an interesting move forward after the "coffee-house punk" of their superb debut "Manos". Consisting solely of guitar and drums, no bass, The Spinanes produce a distinctive guitar jangle with cool kick-bass backbeats.

Strand explores rich, dreamy soundscapes. Songs with long sonic intros, great melodies layered over beds of textured sound and excellent songwriting combine to make this record a moody yet thoroughly enjoyable experience. On first listen, it appears to be relatively restrained and dark, however, after a number of listens, the warmth and depth of the songs really come to the surface. Definitely a grower.

Strand was clearly a well thought out

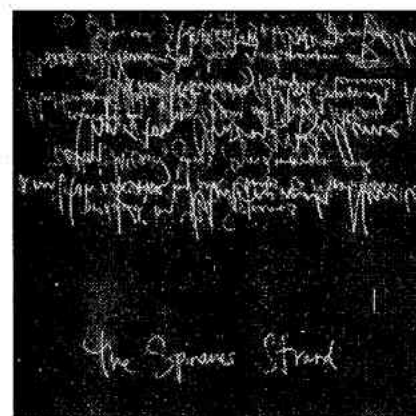
record. Songwriter Rebecca Gates explained the ideas behind Strand when I caught up with her in Canberra recently: "Manos was very much a 'first record' and it captured, as many first records do, the essence of the band. I had, however, hoped for far more variety and depth. As I was writing the current songs they seemed to be a lot more linked, more one piece, and they were definitely more moody and atmospheric. As part of this we became more focused on soundscapes like what part of the day certain songs relate to and how that fits into the scheme of the album."

"Lines and Lines" with its one and a half minute intro is pure pleasure when the oh-so-catchy guitar jangle and funky drum beat kicks in. The anger in "Valency" picks up the

pace at the midway mark and is definitely an afternoon song while the closing track "For No One Else" provides a lighter more - overtly happy feel to round out the record. "A lot of stuff that was happening in the US at the time was very immediate, shallow and generic and was being called alternative. I just wanted to make a record that was personal and intimate and really for people who like to think of records as companions the way I do."

For me, Strand has become a companion record. If you like records that are made to be appreciated as a whole and not just as a disjointed collection of songs, records that display a range of emotions, and great guitar pop, Strand may become your very best friend.

Phil Hall



Itch-e & Scratch-e

Howling Dog

Australian outfit Itch-e and Scratch-e have attracted a great deal of attention during the past couple of years with their original and varied brand of dance music. Their latest single, *Howling Dog*, is nothing if not original. However, whether or not it is a great work of genius is another question.

The *Howling Dog* CD single contains two versions of each of two songs. There are two versions (the 'full moon trance' and 'Sheriff Lindo hypnotises the drums' mixes) of the title track, as well as the 'sleep deprived album version' and 'deepest Manhattan



swamp stomp' mixes of 'To the islands'. For what it is worth, the office goth's opinion is that 'Howling dog' itself is interesting but far too repetitive. Essentially, the song (in both versions on the CD) is based around a percussive beat, over which samples of sounds such as a howling dog are played. The result is very ambient and very unconventional, but the office goth cannot help but thinking that the novelty might wear off after a few listens. In many respects, the two versions of 'To the islands' are similar to 'Howling dog'. Both are based around

simple beats, and rely heavily on samples of sounds such as crickets and jungle ambience.

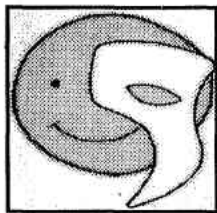
This CD may be of interest to those with a penchant for gentle ambient techno music, but the office goth should warn his readers that it is very different to the music by Itch-e and Scratch-e which was being played on radio and in clubs a year or so ago. He cannot help but think that this music is a little too ambient and lacking in form, and that its appeal may be quite limited as a result.

Office Goth

WIN FREE CDS!!!

In line with the spirit of the olympics, Woroni has great new CD's to give away from artists such as Skunkhour, Rage Against The Machine and Ammonia, to win a prize simply submit a hand drawn portrait of your favourite Australian athlete to the Woroni office by August 1st (with name and student number)





The Wandering Jew

ANU Arts Centre

What do twin orphans from Siberia, an Indian prince, a young French aristocrat, a devout missionary and a depraved vagabond have in common? Who is scheming to destroy them all? And just who is the Wandering Jew?

These questions will be answered during CADS's main production for 1996, *The Wandering Jew*. As well as a huge cast of the ANU's finest young actors, *The Wandering Jew* contains all the essential elements of any great story: sex, corruption, suspense, intrigue, greed, power, true love and comedy.

The play is being directed by professional local director Camilla Blunden. Blunden is using a vibrant young cast and innovative staging to bring the Victorian melodrama firmly into the 1990's. "It's really the *Melrose Place* of the nineteenth century," she noted, "but with better acting". Blunden, who is best known as a director at Eureka! Theatre Company, has joined CADS in mounting this production because of her enthusiasm for this text and her interest in working with young people. "It's a great story" said Blunden, "This is a story for people who want to know what's going to happen next."

The Wandering Jew is the third mainstage production for CADS following successful seasons of *The Madwoman of Chaillos* in 1992 and 1993's *Once in a Lifetime*. CADS is the ANU's only student drama society. The mainstage represents a chance for ANU students interested in theatre to work with a professional director on a large scale show, and to get involved in all aspects of theatre production.

The show will be a fantastic opportunity for ANU students to witness the diverse talents our campus has to offer. With a dynamic team of Art School students working on set design and costume, music students co-ordinating sound, and drama students both on and behind the stage, the production will be one of the largest student shows the ANU has seen.

The Wandering Jew will be performed at the ANU Arts Centre Theatre from Tuesday August 6 to Saturday August 10 at 8pm. Tickets are available through Ticketing Services on 239 1885 or at the door. Discounts are available for groups, students and CADS members.

Kurt Wilberding



Heretic

Canberra Theatre

David Williamson's latest play, "The Heretic," resurrects Margaret Mead, American anthropologist and icon of the sixties, from the grave, for a battle of integrity with ANU emeritus professor Derek Freeman. In 1983 after Mead's death, Derek Freeman released a work entitled *Margaret Mead and Samoa: The Making and Unmaking of an Anthropological Myth* that squarely attacked Mead's famous work about sexual maturing in Samoa. In her 1928 work *Coming of Age in Samoa*, Mead claimed that Samoa was the archetype of a free love society. Freeman challenged this view arguing instead that the Samoan's lived by very rigid rules concerning sexual conduct. Freeman produced evidence to show that Mead's information was based on lies told by mischievous Samoan girls. For his pains, Freeman was ridiculed and

ostracised for having attempted to tarnish the image of "mother earth" and hence the title "Heretic." Ultimately, however Williamson vindicates him.

Williamson used this academic debate to juxtapose the conservatism of the fifties with the liberation of the sixties. He portrayed the struggle between men and women and rehearsed the nature versus nurture debate. Unfortunately these controversial and weighty issues fell flat. They were surrounded by long-winded conversations, bad gags and high-school musical renditions of sixties hits.

Of course Williamson is not to blame for the cabaret segments of the performance, which included excerpts from the musical *Hair*, a man swinging across stage on a rope and a large rubbery talking head as the spirit

of Samoa. Other special touches were Mead's entrance as Marilyn Monroe and Samoan girls singing *The Rhythm of Life*. Williamson has publicly stated that the way the script was produced undercut his play.

Wayne Harrison, the Director, probably jumped at the chance to direct another "Williamson" and then read the script. The script did not contain a great deal to captivate the audience. A one to one chat between pedantic anthropologists is hardly likely to engross your average audience member. One cannot blame Harrison for attempting to punctuate the play with a bit of song and dance. Williamson appears to have decided that Australian theatre goers are all affiliated with the world of universities and academia. Having found a niche in the

market after the success of "Dead White Males", Williamson appears to be sticking to it, but has left those who see theatre as entertainment out in the cold.

What was probably most interesting about the play was that one of its principal characters, Derek Freeman was sitting in the audience. For obvious reasons Margaret Mead did not attend. One can only marvel that Freeman was prepared to have his career, his character, his marriage, his sanity and his sexuality so frankly and publicly discussed. Freeman it would seem is prepared to have himself denigrated as an icon for an idealistic search for truth. Williamson with his anti-postmodernism stance ultimately applauds this search.

Angela Buckingham and Rachael Doland.

The Truth About

Cats And Dogs

Greater Union

Doubting your own beauty in all its forms is the comic reality for Radio Veterinarian Abby (Jancane Garofalo). Like in her earlier film, *Reality Bites*, Garofalo plays a sarcastic larger-than-life beauty with a clever tongue and is this film's sardonic and heart felt favourite. Not only does she produce acting with feeling encapsulated, for a comedy film but she is also great in her deliverance of some of the best film wit to come out in ages.

All is calm till Brian, a man she helps on her radio show, calls in and in a roundabout way asks her out. She says yes... but says she is a perfect, tall, blonde woman that is hard to miss, which she isn't. So she doesn't go. He comes into the studio and just by chance Abby's friend (Uma Thurman) is in her seat

and she fits the earlier description of blonde and beautiful all too well. So the two are now linked to Brian as voice and view and each attracts him more and more. Constantly battling to keep Brian unaware and then confused over what to do about telling him the truth because they both like him are the trio's main attraction. The confusion builds to a very clever and funny conclusion. One idea in the film truly shone and was a brave move for the American film industry, so don't miss that first long phone call.

For all its cute and old themes of mistaken identity and true love found, found in *Roxanne* and *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *The Truth About Cats and Dogs* is well written and extremely funny.

Robert Umphelby

Canberra Rep presents: by special arrangement with Dominic P/L

REP

Servant of Two Masters

BY CARLO GOLDONI TRANSLATED BY TOM CONE
DIRECTED BY CAROL WOODROW

The same city, the same lodgings, two different masters and, unknown to them both, the same incompetent servant!

Theatre 3, Ellery Crescent, Acton
18 July - 10 August 1996 Wednesdays - Saturdays at 8pm
Student rush: Wed/Thurs 24,25,31 July, 1 August
Tickets only \$12
Matinee: Saturday 3 August at 2pm
Bookings & enquiries: Canberra Rep 06 257 1950

Richard III

Being slightly weary of all the remakes of old films and adaptations of classic texts that are around at the moment, I was wary of Ian MacKellen's Richard III. Even when I saw from the promotional literature that it was set in 1930s England, with funky-looking sets and costumes, I wasn't busting to get to it. But then I saw the shorts for it, including part of Richard's first speech ('Now is the winter of our discontent,' etc) - usually done as a soliloquy, and here as a speech at a dance. MacKellen's delivery made the language seem a natural part of the setting, and even from these brief cuts you got the sense that the screenplay had been written with the new possibilities of film foremost in the writers' minds.

And so it was in the whole film. That first monologue seamlessly changes into a soliloquy mid-speech, with a cut to Richard (MacKellen) in the bathroom above the dancers. He washes his hands in front of a mirror, and all of a sudden looks, in the mirror, straight at the camera - straight into our eyes. It is a spine-tingling effect, making the viewer feel as if they have been caught peering, and is the sort of effect that would be impossible on a stage.

It is as if MacKellen, who doubtless has played Richard several times on the stage, has been storing up cinematic ideas over the years, ready for just this film. The beauty of it is that he and his co-screen writer Richard Loncraine (who is also the director) seem to have thought long and deeply about what film can bring to the play, aside from

graphically illustrating settings and convincingly showing murders. There are, of course, plenty of special effects in the film, eg when the queen's brother (Robert Downey Jr) is stabbed through the stomach from underneath his bed, and expensive-looking battle scenes. But though these are pleasing for their effectiveness, cinema audiences are used to them and would expect nothing less. What makes this adaptation special is the use of the features of film which extend the narrative of a play - its non-linearity, its ability to move between settings in the blink of an eye, and its ability to show every line on an actor's face. It is a joy to watch how these features have been incorporated.

Perhaps what is most brilliant about this film is that the screenwriters have used the language not only to tell the tale, but also, highlighting its ear-pleasing meter and lilt, as a kind of *accompaniment* to the action. In some scenes it is used as music is traditionally used, to sew together an abrupt cut so that it appears logical and linked. Thus dialogue is given a new dimension in this adaptation - it is both meaningful to the action and an acoustic accompaniment to it.

The delivery of the text is brilliant - no one declaims, and the language comes out sounding right at home in 1930's England. Nigel Hawthorne has a small role as Clarence, the doomed brother and good chap, and plays it well. Annette Bening is the only not-wholly-convincing actor, not because of her American-ness (Downey Jr gets past that fine) but because she is more

stagey than the others and in comparison seems out of place. MacKellen is brilliant - truly evil, and yet able to convincingly charm. He acts with his face and eyes, getting across Richard's murderous psyche with a minimum of gesture.

People who make films of Shakespeare's plays are the bravest of all the adaptors, because they will play not only to those who have seen the previous adaptations or read the book - their audience will also include those who have seen several stage productions, and those who have never read or heard a word of Elizabethan-style language

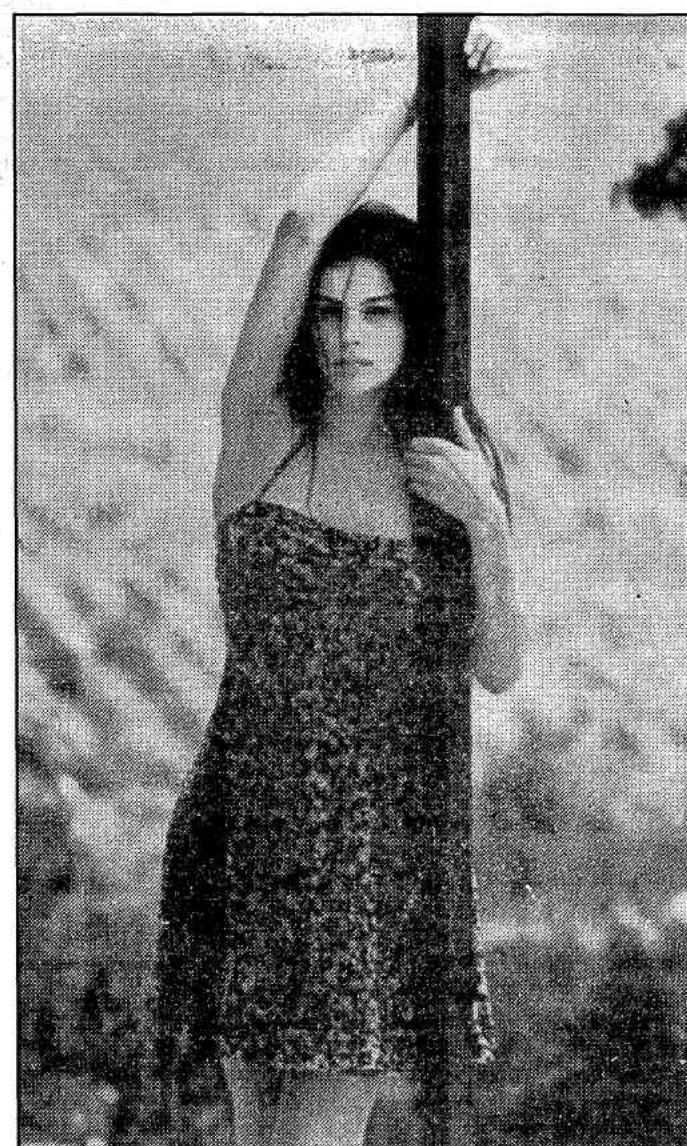
in their lives. They must make that language fit whatever setting they choose to put it in, as well as being easily intelligible to their modern-day audience. This adaptation of Richard III achieves all of this and goes one step further - in amongst all the effects and visual sumptuousness it keeps the intimacy of a play and ensures that the language, not the visuals, is at the forefront at all times.

If you are about to swear off seeing any more adaptations, at least make sure to catch this one first.

Kristy Shugg

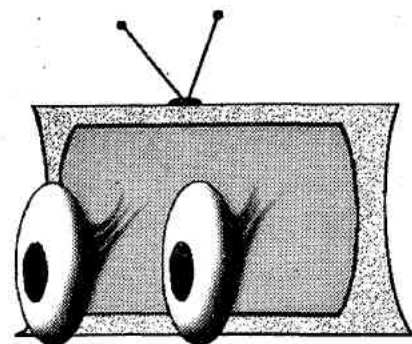


Stealing Beauty



Woroni has 20 double passes, courtesy of Fox Columbia Tristar, to give away to view the premiere screening of Stealing Beauty, the new film by Bernardo Bertolucci, starring Liv Tyler and Jeremy Irons. on Wednesday 31st July at Electric Shadows. To win simply write your name student no. and telephone number and drop it in the box outside the Woroni office.





Kingpin Greater Union

Every human being suffers dilemmas and missed opportunities in their lives. We face retribution, calamity and only a small slice of grace and favour. I felt the weight of this condition on the day I dragged my sorry carcass to see 'Kingpin'.

Movies have the ability to reach out, to hold your hand and caress your soul. I laid myself bare for the absolution that I felt was to follow, and, brothers and sisters... it certainly did. I say this not only as an individual that appreciates bad humour, but as an ambassador of the human spirit.

'Kingpin' gave me the morality tale I so sorely needed, it gave me a tale of greater woe and greater yuks than my own. We travel down life's dark and seamy alleyways with our main character, ahhh...I can't remember his name, you know, Woody Harrelson plays him. Well whatever his name is, we follow him on the road of the decrepit bowling shyster, a trip that starts as a wide

eyed youngster and ends with a one handed, broken spirit on the road to eternal damnation and even worse — Reno, the American capital of bad taste.

I just want to focus on the hand thing for a moment. See he's a bowler right? And then he loses his hand (I won't tell you how), and in doing so he loses his dreams, his ambitions and his will to live. I mean, it's so thick with irony, a bowler that can't bowl — man, this movie has everything.

As if this showcase of tortured soul versus the world wasn't enough we have the world's greatest actor thrown in as his nemesis, sent by the devil himself to ensure the demise of the poor wretch, ahhh...you know Woody plays him. Anyway, Bill Murray, yes Big Bill plays the American champion that stands in the way of, err, Woody's salvation. I know you thought Bill had gone the way of Marlon Brando, too big for Hollywood... and it would seem a fitting way for the great

man to live, I mean he's already made 'Groundhog Day', what more do we want. Bill answer's that question by making a blissfully poignant but measured appearance in 'Kingpin'. Just enough so we can praise and say "yes Bill, we do love you so". The second best actor in the film, next to Bill, has got to be his hair. He really captures the heart and soul of the faded, pot-bellied 'bowler of the people' with a comb-over that really has to be seen to be believed.

As if this mix wasn't potent enough, we have the young Amish bowler and the beautiful seductress that add mayhem and misfortune to the story. Not that you really notice them, between Bill's hair and Woody's lack of hand.

It is the simplicity that is the greatest feature of this film. We explore simple lives in situations that stem from being simple, I don't mean that in a bad way, simplicity can

be a real Zen thing, you know? The reality of having little to drag you out of Smalltown USA pushes people into some pretty weird occupations, none more weird or more American than bowling — the sport of beer and hotdogs.

So if you've ever marvelled at the size of most of the people on Rikki Lake, been revolted and amazed at the shriek of a shrill American accent or just stared in wonder at a big fat guy behind the wheel of a monster truck — this movie is for you. It gives you the wonderful opportunity to visit with the ugly, stench filled underbelly of the loudest country on the planet. and after two hours walk out with a sigh of relief.

Did we really think they wouldn't put pick-up trucks in the opening ceremony of the Atlanta games?

Christ

The Cable Guy Greater Union

If you've been watching Entertainment Tonight for the past month then there really isn't any need to rush out and see The Cable Guy- you've already seen the funny bits. If you haven't heard of The Cable Guy then you probably haven't heard of Tencel jeans either. There's been just as much hype, if not more, but it seems The Cable Guy is even lighter weight than those "just-like-denim-but-thinner" pants.

Jim Carrey plays the role of a kooky cable television installer. Desperate to find a buddy, he oversteps the line between professional and friend - wreaking havoc on the life of an unsuspecting Matthew Broderick. Carrey, of course, carries the movie through with his rubber face, Plastic Man antics, but unlike his earlier performances he just doesn't reach his usual form.

In typical Hollywood style, The Cable Guy

finishes with a Die Hard ending - the recently hostaged girlfriend and rescue-ranger boyfriend hugging under a police issue blanket as helicopters fly overhead. In fact, the whole movie sticks to a typical Hollywood formula. Carrey should've stopped after Ace Ventura - Pet Detective, but he didn't, and the more money he's paid for each new movie, the more cutbacks there'll be in plot departments. As a huge

Carrey fan it's disappointing to watch him in a role like this, but don't be too disheartened, there's a great scene with chicken skin and Carrey does the best he can with a predictable script and hackneyed plot. Ignore the hype and you may not be as disappointed.

Abi Barry

what's on

GOING OFF!

Tilley's Devine Cafe

Trying to launch yourself as a solo performing artist in a city like Canberra can be a daunting task, not only for the courage and energy involved, but also for the lack of suitable and sympathetic venues, especially if you're a woman. Often seen as unprofitable risk-taking, many venues are hesitant to try new faces, or even older, more well known solo talent. However, Canberra has a rich vein of talent lying under its quiet surface, and two local women have dug around and found gold. *Going Off* will be a showcase for their findings, to be held at Tilley's, a venue still supportive to local and relatively unknown artists.

Sara Vancea and Manthy Loucataris are solo artists in their own right, as well as being involved with bands such as *Filthy Lucre* and *Arthur* (Vancea), *Brava Divas* and *Fudge* (Loucataris). They are keen to present *Going Off* as a night of first-class entertainment located 'outside the mainstream'. They understand how scary it is to get up on stage by yourself, and are using the gig as a comfortable, supportive environment in which the performers enjoy making the music as much as the audience enjoys hearing it.

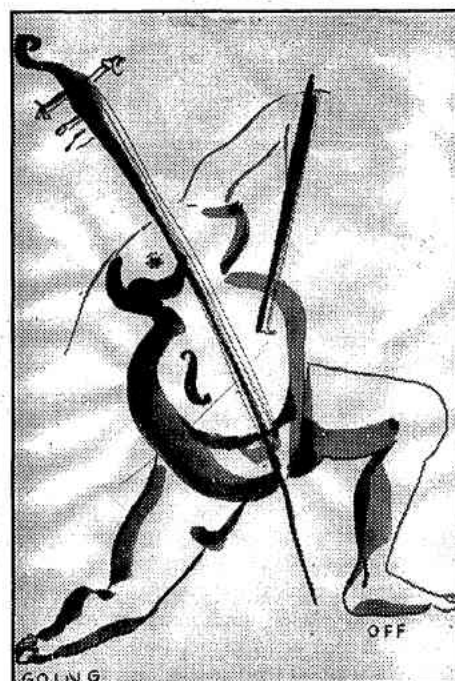
Many of the women performing in *Going Off* also play in bands well known around the Canberra scene: Cris Clucas (*Cuss*), Julie (*Machitun*), Elaina (*Browning Towers*), Esbeth (*Tinderbox*), Sarah (*Fudge*), and Viv Waller (*Dorothy's Dance Band* and *Brava Divas*). There will also be a number of other women relatively untried but very ably performing on stage. The emphasis is on solo pieces and unique combinations, with some of the artists backing each other throughout the evening. *Going Off* also features some comedy from members of *Silicon Spy* and Dawn Gardiner. All in all a night not to be missed by anyone interested in finding what Canberra's alternate female talent has to offer.

Going Off will be held on Saturday 10 August at Tilley's Devine Cafe, Wattle Street, Lyneham, starting around 9pm. So far it's a one-off meal, but if the support is there, it may become a regular feast!

For more information ring Tilley's (2491543).

Caren Florance

Illustration by Han Hoynce



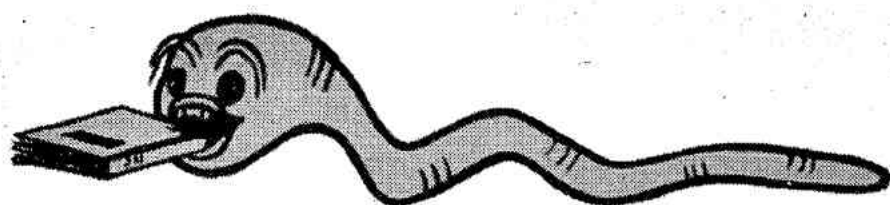
ANU Drill Hall Gallery

Otto Dix: Critical Graphics 1920-1924
20 June-4 August 1996, Exhibition Room 1

The main body of the exhibition is devoted to Otto Dix's print portfolio titled "Der Krieg (War)". This series of fifty etchings, published in 1924, is considered to be one of the greatest graphic achievements of the twentieth century. The central themes are the diversity of humanity and the horrors of war. A German Institute for Foreign Cultural Affairs Travelling Exhibition in association with the Goethe Institute, German Cultural Centre, Australian tour organised by the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Robin Wallace-Crabbe: 1996 ANU Creative Arts Fellow
20 June - 4 August 1996, Exhibition rooms 2 and 3

Charcoal and pastel drawings and etchings completed by the artist during his term as 1996 ANU Creative Arts Fellow. The Creative Arts Fellowship, established by the ANU in 1965 continues to provide the University with an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to supporting Australians involved in the creative arts.



Ken Follett

A Place Called Freedom

Set in the Scottish hinterland of 1767, *A Place Called Freedom* evokes the passion of a master story. Mack McAsh sets the scene as the hero and liberator of his fellow enslaved man. He informs his people of the laws that the land owners hold over them falsely, keeping them as slaves when they could be free. He is beaten for his insolence and flees to find a better life in America. Close at hand always is Lizzie Hallim, upper class, yet a fast

learner on what it means to treat those below her with compassion.

With all the political background and the slavery issue invoked at the novel's entrance, I thought this would be a great, powerful and clever read. It was powerful, but then it followed the lines of a story known all too well, all too closely, that it reeked of unoriginality. *Far and Away* starring Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise is the film that I

refer to. Both stories concern a downtrodden member of the lower class, who eventually falls in love with the haughty yet ever so uncertain, yet ever so true daughter (in this case wife) of the evil upper class benefactor, who has wronged him. In this book too, the couple meet while the main character McAsh tries to earn money boxing for a living. The couple also, differently, but none the less go

to America. They also have a chase across America's great unexplored western territories in search of a new life away from the evil old and in both the evil would-be husband dies at their hands.

A Place Called Freedom started out well and is still a great read for those who have not seen or read *Far and Away*.

Robert Umpelby

Raymond E Feist

Rise Of A Merchant Prince

Rise of a Merchant Prince is the second volume of the Serpentwar Saga and the 11th novel from renowned fantasy author Raymond E. Feist. It is set in the fantasy world of Midkemia, created by Feist in his first trilogy the Riftwar Saga, and recounts the continuing battle fought by the nobility and citizenry of the Kingdom of the Isles to save their world from the Emerald Queen and her shadowy allies the Pantathian Serpent Priests.

As the title suggests, the story focuses on the commercial ambitions of Roo Avery, one of the chief protagonists in the first novel of the Serpentwar Saga, Shadow of a Dark Queen. Having returned from the campaign against the Emerald Queen described in the first novel, Roo is given his freedom and a healthy bonus of gold with which to start his new life. He quickly rises to prominence as a merchant due in equal part to good fortune and the good sense to capitalise upon it, making allies and enemies along the way, until he is able to hatch a scheme that could

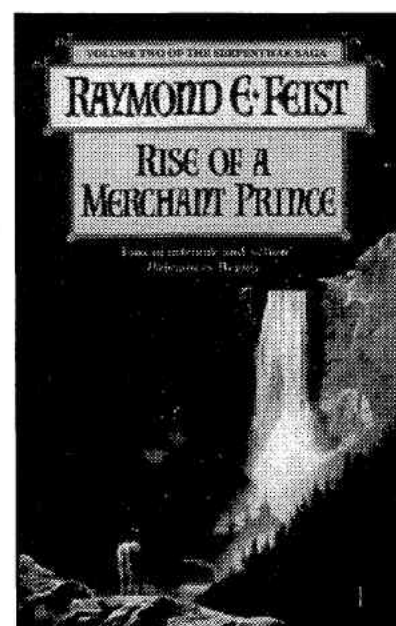
change the course of financial dealings in the Western Realm irrevocably. His boyhood friend Erik chooses to remain a soldier and embarks upon another journey to Novindus, home of the Pantathians and the Emerald Queen, with many of the other characters from the first novel. The difference is that this time the mission is to destroy as many of the Serpent Priests as possible.

Feist writes with such vivid detail in creating the world which surrounds his characters that the reader gains an insight into every aspect of Midkemia, from war to commerce to politics, entertainment and the life of the common man. The world is so rich and complete that the stories Feist tells are only one part of the joy in reading his books. Feist has a large cast of characters for the Serpentwar Saga from nobility to common soldiers, businessmen and criminals, all of whom he attempts to give the reader a feel for. His unlikely heroes, Roo and Erik, are both likeable but flawed making them easy to relate to, while Nakor, Calis and Miranda, all of whom featured in the first

novel of the Saga, provide an element of mystery. A particularly successful element of Feist's character development is the way in which he does not confine dialogue to the task of developing the plot, but also uses his characters to discuss universal themes such as love and death.

Rise of a Merchant Prince is yet another example of Raymond E. Feist's excellence in the fantasy genre. He tells an interesting story that could stand alone but takes on a lot more meaning for those who have read the first novel of the Serpentwar Saga and The King's Buccaneer, or preferably all of Feist's previous Midkemia novels. I highly recommend this book for those who have read Feist before, and recommend it just as highly to those who haven't but seek great pulp fantasy. However, if you fall into the latter category, do yourself a favour and start at the beginning of his catalogue - I guarantee that the depth and scope of his fantasy will astound and captivate you as it has me.

Renaissance Man



Mukiwa

Peter Godwin

Rhodesia's darkest years were those in the 1960s and 1970s. Times that saw the country's fight for independence lead to Zimbabwe's creation and the destruction of many of those who had lived within her boundaries. This book offers the most enjoyable and interesting read on Africa to come out for a long time.

Peter Godwin tells his life's story in a personal, moving and capturing manner. He truly lived an incredible life. As a young boy

he witnessed much of the black and white racial interaction and the end to many of the white land-owner's hold on Rhodesia. He not only records the beauty of many of the blacks he was in contact with but their customs, language and inner beauty as well. Older, he joins the police force and fights against terrorists in Western Rhodesia, while the whites desperately try to hang onto power. He then returns from Oxford to write on a paper within the country and becomes

embroiled in the genocide occurring under the new black rule. He prints his story and gives an inside account of its effects and every sides point of view. Not only is he adventurous and very lucky to be alive but he grew up with the chance to defend and live all sides of the Rhodesia struggle.

The prose of *Mukiwa* is moving and tragic. The pages turn easily with Godwin's eloquence leading the reader deeper into the

heart of this African nation, till they stand along side him and feel its emotional turmoil and wish to heal it.

This book has both *The Power of One's* inner strength and personal resonance and is a brilliant piece of prose journalism about a person who has lived and seen his most precious Africa, shine its true light upon him and dance its deepest crimes. Peter Godwin's *Mukiwa* should not be missed.

Robert Umpelby

Medicine - A Guide For Prospective Students

Patrick Mackerras

Beyond what we see on 'ER' and hear from friends and parents, there is a lack of easily accessible information on what students contemplating medicine are really getting themselves into. *Medicine*, by our very own Patrick Mackerras, seeks to remedy this, by providing an overview of what life as a doctor, and as a medical student, is actually like. The result is a book that is refreshingly readable but still packed full of useful information.

The book begins uniquely by looking at some of the reasons why people choose to do medicine, and assesses how realistic these reasons are - does being a doctor really give you social prestige, allow you to be your own boss, or escape paperwork? How intellectually rewarding is it? In this way prospective medical students can identify their own

reasons for thinking about medicine, and get some idea of how a medical career will fulfil their aspirations.

The book then looks at what tribulations await graduates in the early hospital years - what do interns, RMOs and registrars actually do? - followed by a useful exposition of medical careers, identifying both the appealing and unsavoury aspects of general practice, the specialties and a career in medical research, as well as training requirements, opportunities for career advancement and the like. Finally it examines medical education in Australia, comparing the different medical schools and looking at what it's like to be a medical student, before closing with a useful section on where to find further information.

Though a flick through the book reveals a

lot of fairly dense text, it is actually very readable. This is due to a relaxed, conversational style and a liberal use of quotations from medical students and doctors gained from extensive interviews. The balance between quotations and text is a good one, bringing in sufficient opinions from people in the know, but without merely collating quotes. Patrick's interest and enthusiasm for the subject is clearly apparent, as is the significant research undertaken. It is packed with useful information, especially on the courses themselves - with everything from entry requirements and procedures to gender balance.

For people who know Patrick, the book is worth reading just for those gems of expression unique to Patrick. Who else could make a six or seven-year course sound so

appealing: "If you love learning you certainly won't be disappointed with medicine because you'll be studying for the rest of your life" or mix colloquialism with grammatical impeccability ("someone off whom to bounce ideas").

For anyone wanting to know about medicine, this book is a sensible starting point. It brings together a wide range of information about medical life, and offers insightful comments from those on the inside. To dive into a medical degree without careful consideration is a dangerous ploy, and Patrick has made it easier to get a good idea of what lies in store down that grassy path. Now if someone would just do the same for law...

David Jeffery

Tegan Bennett

Bombora

Bombora is a novella of a little over 100 pages proudly headlined by the publishers as shortlisted for the Australian/Vogel Literary Award, and deservedly so. The book also includes a second novella, *The Chiming Light*, by the same author but otherwise unrelated to the first except for the similar setting and same high standard.

When I took this book home, I didn't know what to expect. Dragged in by the interesting black-bordered cover art and promise of young adult grunge angst described on the rear cover blurb, I actually read the second story first. It recounts the lives of four friends, Rachel, Sam, Vince and Frank, in the post-apocalypse that awaits most of us upon completing our degrees and entering the world outside academia.

Bennett recounts it as a world of uncertainty where the jobs our parents had waiting for them have long since evaporated along with the moral structures that gave them purpose and held them in place. There is no Reality Bites designer hip here - 90s Australia is a time and place of twenty-somethings not disenchanted but displaced and given no clear path forward, only a choice of whether to struggle or to drift. It is in this landscape that Bennett vividly creates her four characters, fighting to hold on to each other but slowly growing apart as each makes the

choice.

The way in which the characters and their relationships are sketched is the strength of *The Chiming Light*. It has no clear storyline but is rather a lengthy examination of individuals and relationships as they exist in the context outlined above, each character's story unfolding through a sequence of current events, flashbacks and very real dialogue. The author also interjects, more so toward the end of the story, with flashes of narrative personal philosophy and sometimes questions we'd rather not ask ourselves, and that I sometimes found I couldn't answer. She also uses this device throughout *Bombora*, to excellent effect in both stories. The only criticism I have of *The Chiming Light* is that I found the ending unsatisfactory in that at the very last it confounded me - a few neat ends and then a terrible discord. I may simply have missed the point, however... or maybe that was her point.

Bombora is a more classically told tale which resolves around the lives of Leo, Madeline and their young daughter Annabel, and the way in which their seemingly harmonious life together is rent apart by Madeline's discovery of Leo's infidelity. Leo is a late-twenties pub balladeer, clumsy and

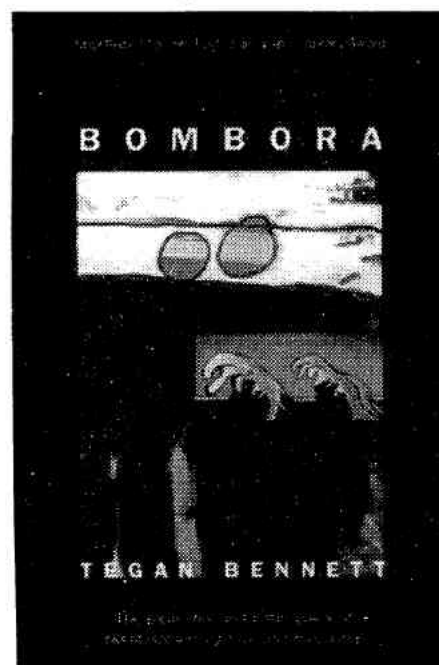
irresponsible yet somehow charming and beautiful, and his wife Madeline is in her early twenties, young, naive and, in her own words, defined by her love for Leo.

The story moves through their everyday life, from the details of home and Leo's family to the summer vacation in Port Macquarie, and is often glimpsed through Annabel's eyes with the wonder and surprising insight that comes from children. When Madeline discovers Leo's cheating, the story turns toward an examination of all that his foolishness affects - Madeline, Annabel, his family, himself and even his new lover. In exploring the situation Bennett is ruthless from all sides and the effect is to create real emotion, at least in this reader. She imposes herself upon the narrative to great effect, and the ending is crushing. Having completed *Bombora*, I understood why it had been given top-billing and wondered why I had not read it first. I guess I didn't think that the story of a family would mean as much to me as did a story of friends, but I was wrong. However, none of that is to detract from *The Chiming Light*.

It was by sheer luck and circumstance that I happened to pick up this book and decide to review it. I am glad that I did. If you like

this genre but can't afford to buy it, at least read *Bombora*, both stories, and I hope you get as much from them as I did.

Renaissance Man



H.G Nelson

Petrol, Bait, Ammo And Ice

Like all Club Buggery and This Sporting Life fans I anxiously awaited H.G.Nelson's first book. Unfortunately, I was bitterly disappointed. Basically, *Petrol, Bait, Ammo and Ice* is a collection of H.G.'s commentaries on sports, politics, art and life in general. He discusses, among other things, the intricacies of Australian media policy and analyses the careers of Boutros-Boutros Ghali and Trevor 'the Axe' Gillmeister in the flamboyant and eloquent manner that many would already be familiar with. In other words, H.G. unloads a

whole lot of crap, heavily imbued with toilet and genital humour, that is usually bloody funny.

However, an essential ingredient of Roy and H.G.'s success is the embellished passion that they convey with their voices and expressions. Although the anecdotes in the book are just as outrageous as those one might hear on the radio or watch on the TV, the humble reader finds it difficult to recreate the passion. Without this element of passion, the book becomes tedious and, dare

I say it, stupid! Another annoying thing about the book is its discussion of out-of-date and over-publicised issues such as the Super League and O.J. Simpson farces.

This is not to say that *Petrol, Bait, Ammo and Ice* is a total joke. The book is filled with ingenious synonyms for 'penis' such as 'floppy night tools' and 'old-fashioned one-armed bandit poker machine'. H.G. also provides many mildly amusing nicknames such as the Cucumber Captain (Warwick Capper) and

Three Knees (Michael Hancock). Moreover, Reg Mombassa deserves a mention for his bizarre illustrations which are interesting distractions from the monotony of the text.

The main problem with this book is that it is a book. Enjoying it depends on whether the reader can imitate H.G.'s unique style of expression. Roy Slaven acknowledges this in the foreword in which he suggests that you must, "read him with your ears".

Kim Huynh

Vera Newsom

Emily Bronte Recollects

Old age in our society is often regarded as a slow, embarrassing extinction, not as simply another phase of life. Vera Newsom's poetry is a profound exploration of life as it is lived, tempered by her peaceful meditations upon her own mortality. Her poetry ostensibly disclaims that she has lead anything but a quiet life, but this collection clearly reflects the fact that for a poet is is not breadth of experience, but depth of appreciation that is important. Her poems are at their most lyrically familiar when describing the simple, homely pleasures: colourful crockery, a varied garden, the play of light on a wall, good wine and the eating of fruit and preparation of food. Newsom has a profound appreciation of the human, she has lived long enough to watch "friends, lovers die, even / some of my children die", but has not in her later years been left embittered by her experience,

rather she appears to have acquired a deeper passion for living life - even if its pleasures were those of a quiet one.

The title sequence of poems is written in the voice of Emily Brontë, as a sequence of reflections towards the end of her life: a very bold project, and an ambitious identification with the famous author, perhaps. The poems are intriguing, thought-provoking, rich in Brontë's own love of domestic detail, and brooding upon the fantastic landscape of moors and brutal weather in which she lived most of her incredibly isolated and restricted life. The complexities of the Brontë family's domestic relationships are also explored in some detail. The imagery is stark and aggressive, but the narrative voice is quiet, reflective. It is this mystical tone, creating a fusion of the imaginative and the inhumanly inhospitable landscape, that evokes most

strongly the sense of the presence of the author of *Wuthering Heights*. The concerns of these poems, though, passion, loss, death and a spiritual seeking after the meaning of mortality, while they may have been Brontë's, are very clearly Newsom's, too.

The Brontë sequence is only one of five sections of the collection, the remainder includes poetry written during and about confining illness, the memories and experiences of a return trip to Cumbria, poetry for friends, and in praise of the joys of reading and the creative act of writing. It is the unsentimental, simple evocation of the Australian seasons and landscape in many of these poems that chimes as the most familiar, stirring aspect of the collection. There are also the occasional, pricking reminders of the status of women in our society: more poignant for being the sober reflections of a

long-live woman born in more restrictive times than ours. However, the over-arching theme of the collection is about the value of life, the pleasures of domestic comfort, and the importance of friendship and an intense, if restrained passion for the joys of living.

This collection is of high quality, and its sixty poems are of a surprisingly uniform standard: nothing has been included merely to fill out the volume. Of course, each reader will find individual poems that do not perhaps ring true, or may seem a little contrived, but this is the hazard of a broad collection, a matter of taste not merit. I have no idea how Newsom's literary reputation will fare in the coming decades, I only know there are poems in this collection I shall return to again and again in that time.

Douglas Guilfoyle

Behind the Face

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

Behind the Face Compares:



Kurt Cobain



Amanda Vanstone

United the world's youth	United Australia's youth
Image alternative to society	Image alternative to humanity
Death improved his well-being	Death may improve our well-being
Was considered a poet	Can't construct a sentence
Intelligence limited by drugs	Intelligence limited by nature
Destruction followed his visit to ANU in '92	Destruction will follow her visit To ANU in '96
Killed himself with a gun	Has to hurry before they are all banned
Blew his brains out	Why waste a bullet?

Lawyer Season: Regulations and Bag Limits

1. Any person with a valid A.C.T. hunting license may harvest Lawyers.
2. Taking of Lawyers with traps or deadfalls is permitted. The use of currency as bait is prohibited.
3. Killing of Lawyers with a vehicle is prohibited. If accidentally struck, remove dead Lawyer to roadside and proceed to nearest car wash.
4. It is unlawful to chase, herd, or harvest Lawyers from a snow machine, helicopter, or aircraft.
5. It shall be unlawful to shout "whiplash", "ambulance", or "free Perrier" for the purpose of trapping Lawyers.
6. It shall be unlawful to hunt Lawyers within 100 yards of BMW dealerships.
7. If an Lawyer is elected to government office, it shall be a felony to hunt, trap, or possess it.
8. Stuffed or mounted Lawyers must have a state health department inspection for AIDS, rabies, and vermin.
9. It shall be illegal for a hunter to disguise himself as a reporter, drug dealer, pimp, female legal clerk, sheep, accident victim, bookie, or tax accountant for the purpose of hunting Lawyers.

BAG LIMITS

1. Two-faced Tort Feasor 1
2. Back-stabbing Divorce Litigator 4
3. Honest Lawyer EXTINCT
4. Brown-nosed Judge Kisser 2
5. Silver-tongued Drug Defender \$100 BOUNTY

Terminal Stupidity — V-chipped nippers

The V-chip seems to be a reasonable proposal at first glance - a tool with which parents can alter the viewing patterns of their children away from unsuitable material. However, this invention ignores the fundamental problem. Let's face it - any parent responsible enough to use the V-chip will probably already be responsibly curtailing the viewing habits of their children, and irresponsible parents are just as unlikely to use the V-chip as they are to discipline their youngsters. Meanwhile we're all getting slugged \$70 on the price of a new TV.

The emergence of V-chipped nippers into adulthood 15 years from now also raises worrying questions. Given the tough, competitive, depressing world that faces them upon coming-of-age, how will the V-chipped class handle the challenges that face them? In the everyday arms race that is our society, it will certainly be an advantage not to have been V-chipped as a youngster, which undoubtedly many will not be. So while the idealists may see the V-chip as a means to create a new generation of adults with cleansed minds and morals, they will fail as the cynical but realistic un-V-chipped out-compete, out-muscle and generally grind the V-chipped Utopians into minimum wage employment. Thus will be created a true class division; the V-chipped and the un-V-chipped, idealist versus realist. Class division eventually leads to revolution and revolution to war, and that all means that the un-V-chipped will eventually commit genocide upon the V-chipped wimps they were raised to exploit. As you can see, I think the V-chip is a pointless, possibly destructive and certainly costly social experiment with good intentions but poor practicalities. Basically it's unnecessary; I mean look at all of us... reasonably well adjusted, getting an education, and we all saw 3000 murders before the age of 10. We don't need a V-chip, the ultimate in Terminal Stupidity. What about introducing a 'parenting licence' subject to psychological evaluation, means test and compulsory TAFE course. Now that's an idea!

Renaissance Man

caption competition

last month's entry



"I only wish that Lisa-Maree and I could have been as happy as you and Hillary."



In Woroni's proud tradition of shamelessly ripping off some of the crappiest newspapers in the world, we have for you this amazing photo, taken from News OfThe World. The story to go with this visual gem centres around a man who was so

desperate not to be parted from his dead wife that he had her sealed inside a glass coffin, which doubled as a coffee table. The man's new girlfriend said 'Either she goes, or I go'. The coffee table coffin was sold at a garage sale for \$216. We ask you to

offer your explanation of the conversation in this photo, and you and your dead partner can win free tickets to the Uni Bar concert of your choice. Just drop it in the box outside the Woroni office! (your entries, that is)

Quality Journalism of the Month award:

This month's award goes to 'The Canberra Times' for their exposure of what could be one of the most debilitating lifestyle related problems ever seen.

Doctor warns on 'leisure' erections

BRISBANE: Hospital casualty wards were seeing increasing numbers of men with drug-induced erections, many of them apparently following penile injections for "leisure use", urologists said.

Queensland: beautiful one day, gothic the next

Queenslanders seem to have developed a reputation amongst Australians as being a group who stand apart from the Australian population at large. Rightly or wrongly, Queenslanders are often labelled as conservative, even redneck, and accused — as some have suggested in the case of the current debate about gun law reform — of having interests at odds with those of the country as a whole.

However, Queensland is also the location of a pioneering experiment in social engineering. This project has the potential to affect social policy the world over into the 21st century; and its potential is especially great because few Queenslanders — let alone Australians — are aware of its existence. The project is an excellent example of applied eugenics, and it is taking place on the Gold Coast, right in the middle of Australia's number 1 tourist Mecca.

Visitors to Brisbane often observe what a wonderful city it is, but few realise why this is the case. The reason is that the Gold Coast has been created to lure all manner of undesirable elements away from the Queensland capital. These include the surfer subculture, who are conspicuously absent from Brisbane, but exist in plague proportions on the Gold Coast.

Gone too from Brisbane are the evil forces of crass commercialism: to buy an \$8 hamburger or an expensive postcard depicting your choice of dirty badly maintained hotels requires a trip to the Gold Coast. All this inspires a truly strange phenomenon. Many sentient human beings would suspect that the above would mean that no one would want to set foot anywhere near the Gold Coast, yet Australians and foreigners flock there by the million. Once they are there, they are struck by a sudden urge to spend all their money on the most expensive and tackiest souvenirs they can find. Maybe, therefore, the Gold Coast acts as a kind of social filter, drawing undesirable elements of society away from more desirable locations.

The plot thickens. Earlier this year, storms threatened to wash away the Gold Coast's famous beaches. However, a notable architectural feature of the Gold Coast is the fact that enormous hotels and other buildings full of the sort of people who find the area intensely exciting rise up from the sand only metres from the shoreline. It can only be a matter of time before the next storm comes, and with the beaches already eroded away, it may wash the buildings away instead. The world would then have purged itself forever of those people who flock to the Gold Coast.

Those who dislike surfers and the forces of tacky commercialism might argue that this would not be such a bad thing. Many in Brisbane might see it this way.

Meanwhile, people will continue to observe that Brisbane is the gothic capital of Australia, with pale people wearing black clothes marching in formation with capes flapping down every street in Brisbane's central business district. People will continue to think that this is strange in a city with Brisbane's weather. One day, they will realise that the goths have been orchestrating the social filtration at the Gold Coast, and that this scheme to rid Brisbane of surfers and other undesirable elements is just a small trial test-run of a much greater scheme. For the day will come when the goths will expand the scheme to rid first Brisbane, and then the world, of all the normal people, pausing only to enslave the normals in factories manufacturing double velvet and black liquid eyeliner.

Office Goth

Eat This



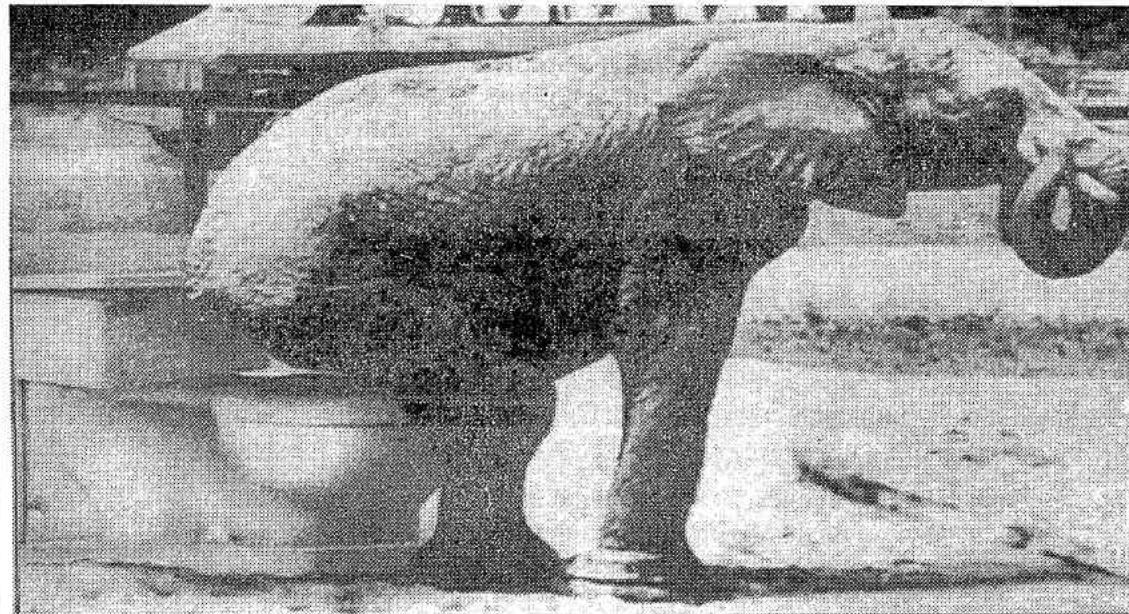
One of the firms that handles Woroni's printing has refused to print Woroni saying they were disappointed in the "smutty, obscene content".

They took particular offence at the contributor called Christ. Apparently his name was offensive.

Woroni responds as follows: "Get a rabid dog whore bitch wank slut sex whip fuck banana dildo up ya"

This

Dead Pet of the Week



No, it's not Amanda Vanstone formulating her new policy on tertiary education, but the world's only toilet trained elephant. This recently deceased pachyderm was the star attraction at a New Delhi zoo but recently succumbed to old age. Amongst the mourners were the zoo keepers who are now faced with the unenviable task of shovelling mountains of shit until a

new elephant can be trained to go to the toilet. As with most of these dead pet stories, every cloud has a silver lining. The game park experienced an unexpected jump in revenue with an unnamed buyer paying big bucks for the oversized toilet. Although the identity of the buyer remains a mystery, it is reported that she is an Australian senator.

old and decrepit.... 1972

Black Mtn.

The Black Mountain Tower is still going to be erected. There is presently a court injunction lodged against it but if work starts the appeal will almost certainly fail.

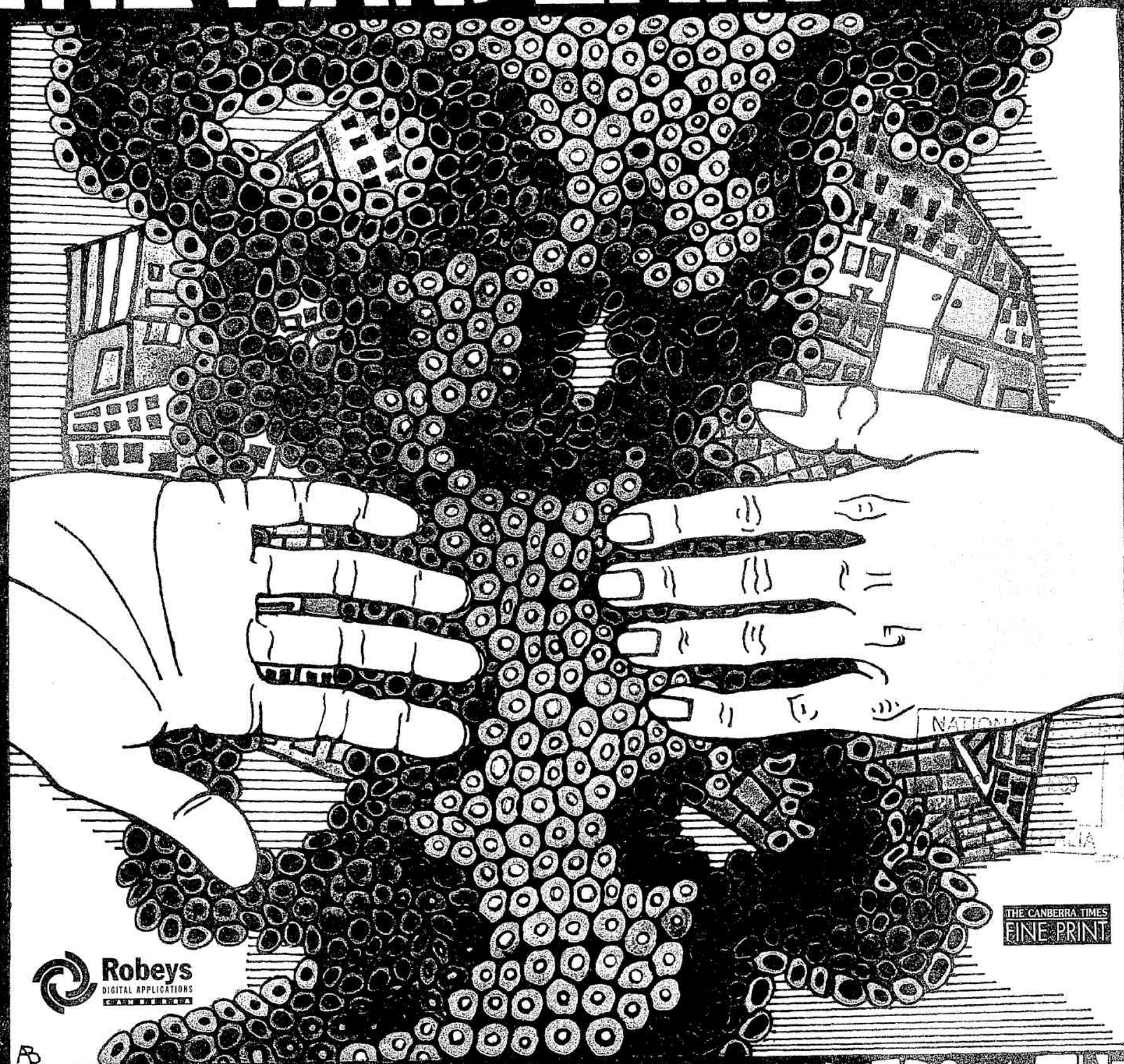
Because of its height, the tower will be an aircraft hazard. By law all aircraft hazards must be painted red and white. So it looks as if we are going to have a gigantic barbershop pole on the top of Black Mountain.

Be ready for action when the alarm is given.

SAVE BLACK MOUNTAIN'

This interesting notice occupied one of the pages of a Woroni radio-carbon dated to mid 1972. Amongst the political columns of labour and liberal student politicians launching personal attacks on each other, nestles this call to action. One only needs to look out of a window in the Student's Association to see just how successful this campaign was. Can it be that in nearly 25 years, student groups are just as ineffective at exerting pressure on the powers that be as they are today? Perhaps a minor victory over the colour scheme of the tower was scored, but as this excursion into the ANU's dark and often stormy history has shown, very little seems to change over the generations.

CADS PRESENTS THE WANDERING JEW



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